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Refugees, escaping the savage artillery bombardment in Beirut, cram into cars with their portable belongings and head for the relative safety of other parts of Lebanon.

Exodus continues from blazing Lebanese capital

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The asphalt highway leading south from the capital was jammed with cars Monday as thousands more residents fled the city to escape shelling that left eight dead and 92 wounded overnight. "I'm not going to return unless all over this time," said Sami Rashdan, a housewife leaving her husband and three teenagers. "We returned from Beirut last week only to be caught in the new madness."

virtually every neighbourhood of the divided city was one of the worst ever in Lebanon's civil war. "It looks like both sides are bent on destroying Beirut. This is a scorched earth bombardment rarely matched in previous civil war rounds," the spokesman said. The spokesman said two hospitals in east Beirut as well as the Turkish embassy and the Belgian ambassador's residence near Aoun's palace took direct hits in the bombardment from 5 p.m. (1400 GMT) Sunday to 4 a.m. (0100 GMT) Monday. No casualties were reported. Aoun's residence, the presidential palace in suburban Baabda east of Beirut, was battered with sustained barrages from BM-21 multi-barrelled launchers, that fire 40 rockets a minute. But Aoun, 54, who lives in the palace bunker, was not hurt, the police spokesman said. Aoun's gunners struck back with savage barrages from howitzers that set three gas stations ablaze in different residential districts of west Beirut. "The burning stations spewed

balls of flames like firecrackers on nearby apartment buildings, forcing residents to flee, even from basements," the spokesman said. Hundreds of stores and cars were gutted. Streets were carpeted with glass shards and debris. Broken electric power poles barricaded many alleyways. Traffic was scarce. Arab mediators met in Algiers Monday to follow up weekend efforts to stop the fighting in Lebanon. The foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, Boualem Bessaich, Abdul Latif Filali and Prince Saud Al Faisal, moved to Algiers after meeting in Rabat Saturday and Sunday. The Algerian news agency APS said they held talks behind closed doors Monday with Lakhbar Ibrahim, the Arab League's chief Lebanon mediator. An Algerian diplomatic source in Rabat said they were finishing a report for their heads of state, members of an Arab League committee set up in May to mediate in the Lebanese conflict.

War of words threatens Cambodian conference

RIS (Agencies) — A head-on b between China and Vietnam Monday apparently torpedoed peace hopes at the Paris international conference on Cambodia, diplomats said. Both Peking and Hanoi unpromptingly demanded the exclusion of each other's abodian proteges, threatening future of the 19-nation forum which opened Sunday. The conference was called to years of turmoil in the South Asian state. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978, sweep away a ruthless, four-year communist experiment by the army-backed Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, in which a million people died. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Phan Xichuan called for a "swift and complete" eradication of the Khmer Rouge — core of a United

Nations-recognised resistance coalition headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of China, the other main foreign protagonist in the conflict, said the conference should accept nothing less than a total settlement replacing the pro-Hanoi Phnom Penh government with an interim coalition including the Khmer Rouge. A top Khmer Rouge official joined the fray with a charge that Vietnam's promised troop withdrawal from Cambodia was a ruse and that Vietnam's real aim was to "exterminate" the Cambodian people. "The Vietnamese crimes, by their scale and atrocity, are equal to those committed by the Nazis during the Second World War," said Khieu Samphan, head of the Khmer Rouge delegation to the

conference. Thach called the Khmer Rouge "the most barbarous regime ever known in human history." Vietnam's goal, Samphan said, "is not only to dominate the country and to exploit its natural resources, but worse still, to exterminate a people and eliminate their national identity." The Khmer Rouge is now the largest faction in Sihanouk's three-party resistance coalition which is fighting the Vietnamese-backed government. Sihanouk, backed by many Western and Asian nations, is pressing for an interim government that would include all Cambodian factions. In his speech, the Khmer Rouge leader repeated Sihanouk's claim that "disguised" Vietnamese would remain in Cambodia after the withdrawal.

King in Jeddah for talks with Saudi leader

JEDDAH (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Sunday for talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia for talks expected to focus on the latest developments in the Middle East and bilateral relations. According to reports, the two monarchs were to review developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese situation and Iran-Iraq peace talks. Jordan's economic situation and possible Saudi financial assistance to the Kingdom were also expected to figure high in the discussions. King Hussein, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court

Chief Thouqan Al Hindawi, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Special Advisor Amer Khamash and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi, was received upon arrival by King Fahd and senior Saudi leaders. Formal talks were expected to begin later Monday. According to diplomatic sources quoted by international news agencies, the two monarchs were to review progress of efforts for Arab-Israeli peace, the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and prospects for a comprehensive peace treaty between Iran and Iraq in the wake of the election of Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani — widely seen as a moderate — as president of Iran.



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off upon his departure for Saudi Arabia Monday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein (Petra photo)

King Fahd is a member of a pan-Arab mediation team entrusted with ending the Lebanese civil war. The other two members are King Hassan II of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. King Hussein was to spend overnight in Jeddah.

Royal Decree approves holding of elections

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Monday providing for holding parliamentary elections in accordance with the First Article of Item 34 of the Constitution. The Election Law states that the Council of Ministers set the date of the elections following the issuance of the Royal Decree.

Israeli troops kill Gazan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed one Palestinian and wounded at least 11 others during demonstrations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Sunday. In a neighbourhood of Jerusalem, a 39-year-old Israeli was stabbed by a Palestinian employee Monday, police said. The Israeli was reported in fair condition in hospital and police were questioning the suspect.

mir over Israel's plan for a Palestinian poll to elect delegates to peace talks. He said he also had received two threatening telephone calls from anonymous Israelis. "There are political differences between the main stream in PLO and the PFLP," Tariqi acknowledged in an interview with the AP. But he said he was not sure the threats actually came from PFLP.

In the Gaza Strip, 15-year-old Mahmoud Al Faraj was shot during clashes with Israeli soldiers in the Bureij refugee camp and died on the way to hospital, hospital officials said. His death raised to 578 the number of Palestinians killed during the 19-month uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Troops shot and wounded at least 11 Palestinians during protests in the Gaza Strip Monday. Palestinian activist Jamil Tariqi said Monday that he was unconcerned about death threats made against him for meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Graffiti in the West Bank city of Ramallah, which Palestinians said was written by hardliners in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), read: "The bullet that killed Zafir Al Masri will also reach Jamil Tariqi."

The PFLP claimed responsibility for the 1986 killing of Masri, the Nabulus mayor appointed by Israel and approved by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "Of course I am not worried and I am not afraid of what's written," Tariqi told Reuters. "Anybody can write whatever they want and anybody can sign it. I insist that no nationalist Palestinian would write what's written on the walls," he said. Tariqi said PLO officials and residents of the occupied territories supported his talks with Sha-

Dual exchange rate introduced

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has effectively launched a two-tier exchange rate system in Jordan Monday, allowing banks to trade at free market rates for financing non-essential goods. A three-page CBJ memo freed banks to trade hard currency at market rates but said they must continue to observe a fixed official rate for public sector imports of basic food, some medicines and fees of Jordanian students abroad. The CBJ set its official rate at 576.4 fils to the dollar Monday, unchanged from Sunday. "Licensed commercial banks and financial institutions are permitted to start dealings in foreign currency... (by offering)

rates of the current market," CBJ Governor Muhammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said in the memo issued to local banks. But Nabulsi said the CBJ would provide funds at the official rate for necessary commodities on a list provided by the Ministry of Supply. He said banks should observe the official rate for imports of those commodities and for most needs of students studying abroad. The new measure means the government is in effect adding an additional subsidy to imported meat, cheese, grains and other goods. On Thursday, Nabulsi said that merchants could buy free market money to import "com-

modities which are not price controlled," but vowed to keep the official rate for essential goods. On July 14 the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which normally sets its face against multiple exchange rate systems, has provided Jordan with an 18-month standby credit and other funds. An IMF team is due in November to review progress on an economic reform programme agreed with the fund. Jordan will shortly start negotiations with the London Club of creditor banks on its commercial debt after winning a 10-year rescheduling agreement from government creditors July 19.

Higgins 'executed'

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A kidnap group said Monday it had hanged American hostage William Higgins. It issued a grisly videotape of his body dangling from a rope, feet tied and mouth gagged. The kidnappers described the killing as a punishment to Israel and the United States for the abduction of a Shiite Muslim cleric by Israeli forces in South Lebanon on Friday. The "Organisation of the Oppressed of the World" announced the hanging of Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins in a statement to an international news agency in west Beirut. It was delivered about two hours after the group's 3 p.m. (1200 GMT) deadline for Israel's release of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid and two aides. It said the hanging had taken place at the announced deadline. The 30-second tape viewed by the AP was extremely bad quality and there was no indication who it was filmed. The group said in a statement released Sunday it would hang Higgins by 3 p.m. unless Israel freed Obeid and two others. The group's statement said: "The execution (of Higgins) will be our first retaliation to the Israeli foolish aggression and to America's support and justification which reveals its complicity in this crime."

Washington has asked Israel to report what it discovered during interrogation of Obeid. "Since we did not take our decision to execute American spy Higgins seriously, and since Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid and his two brethren were not freed by the specified deadline... the execution of American spy Higgins was carried out by hanging exactly at 3 p.m.," the statement said. The coloured tape was apparently taken in two sequences of 15 seconds each. In one sequence the man purported to be Higgins appeared dangling from a scaffold tied to a ceiling with his head tilted leftwards and the body swirling slowly. He was wearing a white blindfold. The second sequence showed him without a blindfold, his eyes bulging. He was handcuffed, wearing a dark jacket and light trousers. The statement with the tape renewed the demand for Obeid's release, saying worse would follow if it was ignored: "What is coming is greater and America and Israel will bear full responsibility for it." In Nicosia, Cyprus, an anonymous caller claiming to speak for the group said the organisation dumped the body behind St. Joseph Hospital in west Beirut. The caller, speaking in Lebanese Arabic and English, said the Syrians picked up the corpse at 4 p.m. "and we are no longer responsible for the body."

The caller then said, "The same thing will happen to Terry Waite exactly at the same time (3 p.m.) tomorrow unless Obeid was released by then." It could not be immediately verified if the caller was from the organisation, which had not made previous calls to the Cyprus office of the AP. Israel said it did not trust the statement by the group in Lebanon Monday and suggested that Higgins was killed long ago. "These people from Hizbollah are not people who can be believed. We don't know whether what they are saying is true," Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told reporters. Lebanese security sources and Israeli officials said the same shadowy group claimed to have killed Higgins last summer after the United States shot down an Iranian civilian airliner over the Gulf. Before Higgins' killing was announced, Israel offered to exchange more than 150 Lebanese prisoners, including Obeid, for three Israeli soldiers and Western hostages believed held in Lebanon. Israel said later the offer still stood. In Chicago, U.S. President George Bush said the reports of Higgins' killing were unconfirmed but he expressed outrage at what he labelled "this kind of brutality, this uncalculated terrorism." State Department officials, insisting on anonymity, described as credible news reports that the victim in the videotape was indeed Higgins. They were unable to say, however, whether the taping was done Monday. In Washington, Senate minority leader Robert Dole strongly criticised Israel for abducting Obeid, saying it had endangered the lives of nine American hostages. "I would hope the Israelis would take another look at some of their actions which they must know in advance endanger American lives," Dole said. "When it endangers the lives of Americans in some foreign country perhaps a little more responsibility on the part of the Israelis one of these days would be refreshing," he said.

Search for Uno successor back to square one

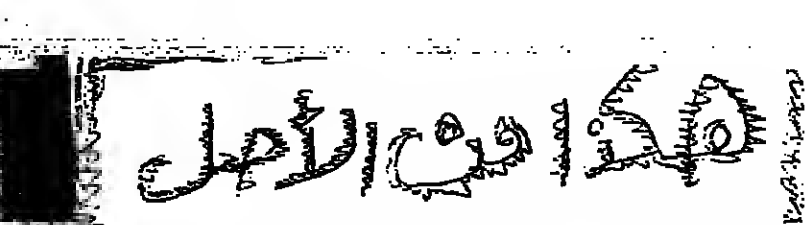
TOKYO (Agencies) — Faction leaders in Japan's ruling party threw out the nomination of the party's emerging young leader, Secretary-General Ryutaro Hashimoto, to replace Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, party officials said Monday. Political analysts said Hashimoto was dumped because he was too independent and too strong a personality for Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) elders, who like to maintain influence over the party leader. Premier Uno said last week he would quit to take responsibility for the LDP's rout in the July 23 elections. He is consid-

ered a political liability because of allegations that he paid a geisha for sex. Hashimoto was seen as capable and relatively untouched by the recent Recruit shares-for-favours scandal in which most of the LDP's leaders were implicated. Party officials said the new LDP leader would be chosen on Aug. 8 and formally named premier at an extraordinary session of parliament Aug. 10. Hashimoto's candidacy fell under a cloud when leaders of the largest faction within the LDP have decided not to back a candidate from within their

group when the party chooses its leader, a faction official said. Three leaders of the faction, nominally headed by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, made the decision Sunday night during a three-hour meeting, faction spokesman Hiroaki Toshinari said. Hashimoto, 52, and Takeshita's 75-year-old mentor, Shin Kanemaru, were both considered possible successors to Uno. Kanemaru, meanwhile, suffers from diabetes and has said he does not seek the office. A report in the mass-circulation newspaper Asahi Shimbun

said the Takeshita faction may support former State Minister Toshio Komoto, 78, who heads a small political faction, or Toshiki Kaifu, 58, a Komoto faction executive. The decision not to back a faction member was made by Kanemaru, who chairs the faction, and senior members Ichiro Ozawa and Keiwa Okuda. Okuda heads the party's parliamentary policy committee and Ozawa is a former party deputy secretary general. Hashimoto was informed of the decision Monday morning, and agreed not to run, Asahi said. The report could not im-

mediately be confirmed, and Takeshita's position on the matter was not immediately known. Faction leaders decided not to back one of their own because the faction had played a crucial role in choosing Uno and his cabinet when Takeshita resigned June 2. Toshinari said. The faction leaders also reportedly chose not to support Hashimoto because he lacks a strong enough following within the faction. Hashimoto, the youngest man to ever hold the party's number two post, also has been criticised as inexperienced.



War-weary Afghans yearn for peace as rockets fall

By Malcolm Davidson
Reuters

KABUL — The rebel rockets which pound Kabul from surrounding hills appear to be a self-defeating weapon in the Afghan battle for hearts and minds in a decade-long conflict.

And five months after Soviet troops withdrew to let the government and Mujahedeen rebels fight it out amongst themselves, many Afghans simply want it all to end.

Mohammad Rahim, who sells potatoes and onions in a Kabul market, said: "When Soviet troops were here, the Afghan people did not like the government. But now they have gone it is not necessary to fight the war any more."

Rahim was sitting 30 metres away from the spot where a rocket struck the central market and bus station July 22, killing 45 men, women and children.

"I am angry against those who give weapons to these people to kill the innocent," he said. "U.S. President George Bush sends these rockets to kill people."

A memorial stone and flowers mark the spot where the rocket fell, every day drawing groups of people who pray for the dead and give money for the victims' families.

Nearly a month of rocket attacks on the city have killed more than 100 civilians. At least 24 people have died in the past two days.

President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government is meanwhile bombarding Kabul with a publicity campaign to persuade people it is doing its utmost to bring peace.

Najibullah, confident after military successes against the guerrillas, appears almost nightly on television pounding home the theme of national reconciliation.

One well-informed diplomat said he did not believe either side commanded popular support.

"If you ask the average Afghan he is indifferent to both sides," he said. "There is general frustration and unhappiness at the stalemate. The average Afghan wants peace."

Peter Tomsen, special United States envoy to the guerrillas, told Congress last week he did not believe reports that Afghans were becoming more tolerant of the Kabul government and mistrustful of the Mujahedeen.

U.S. officials pledged recently to continue supplying the guerrillas with arms. They are funnelled to the fighters through Pakistan, where many guerrilla leaders are based. But Kabul University academics, traditionally strong anti-government, say the rockets harm Mujahedeen standing in the capital, although they add that the government is equally prepared to bombard guerrilla-held areas in the countryside. Some blame the government for failing to protect the city.

"I think the people are turning against the Mujahedeen because of the rockets," said a university lecturer who is thinking of leaving the country. "I myself hate the people who launch the rockets, whoever they are."

Speaking on the eve of talks between the United States and the Soviet Union over Afghanistan, he said: "I do not consider this a war between Afghans. This is a war between the two superpowers. If they came to an agreement it could be ended."

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly and Soviet Ambassador-at-large Nikolai Kozlov were to meet Monday in Stockholm for two days of talks.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said Friday cutting off arms supplies was not enough and the two sides should seek a political solution to 10 years of war in which more than one million people have been killed and five million made refugees.

Rebel warning

AP adds: A self-proclaimed Afghan rebel government Sunday warned the United States against reaching any agreement with the Soviet Union.

Rasul Sayyaf, prime minister of the fractious government-in-exile, said in a statement issued by the guerrilla-controlled

Afghan News Agency based in Islamabad that, "neither of the two superpowers can dictate their policies to us."

Sayyaf asked Washington for "support for our just struggle, which is aimed at achieving complete independence."

The meeting in Stockholm was to be the first superpower discussion focusing on the 10-year Afghan civil war since the last Soviet troops left Feb. 15.

So far, the Mujahedeen have failed to win control of a major city and have been driven back from the key city of Jalalabad.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani Saturday accused the Mujahedeen of firing rockets at Kabul for the past month to "have something in their hand" when the Stockholm talks start.

"We want the U.S. to show us the peace card," Amani said. "But the signals have indicated that the United States in the Stockholm talks will be stressing a military solution."

Wakil said Friday the most important thing the Americans and Soviets could do would be to encourage "hostile groups" to start a dialogue. He also urged the superpowers to discuss a comprehensive peace settlement.

Najibullah's moves

Najibullah brought back into the Afghan government Sunday a former minister recently released after spending eight years in jail, a government spokesman said.

Khalil Mohammad Katawazi, who is in his 30s, was appointed minister adviser to Wakil but diplomatic sources said he might also be given an ambassadorship.

The appointment appeared to be part of Najibullah's effort to rehabilitate dissidents in the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and consolidate his own position at the top.

Spokesman Amani said Katawazi was released from jail about three months ago.

He was minister of information and culture and a PDPA politburo member in the early months of the Afghan revolution but was purged and jailed after falling foul of the party leadership.

Katawazi is a member of the nationalist Khalq faction of the PDPA which dominates the higher echelons of the army and has in the past feuded with Najibullah's Parchaman group.

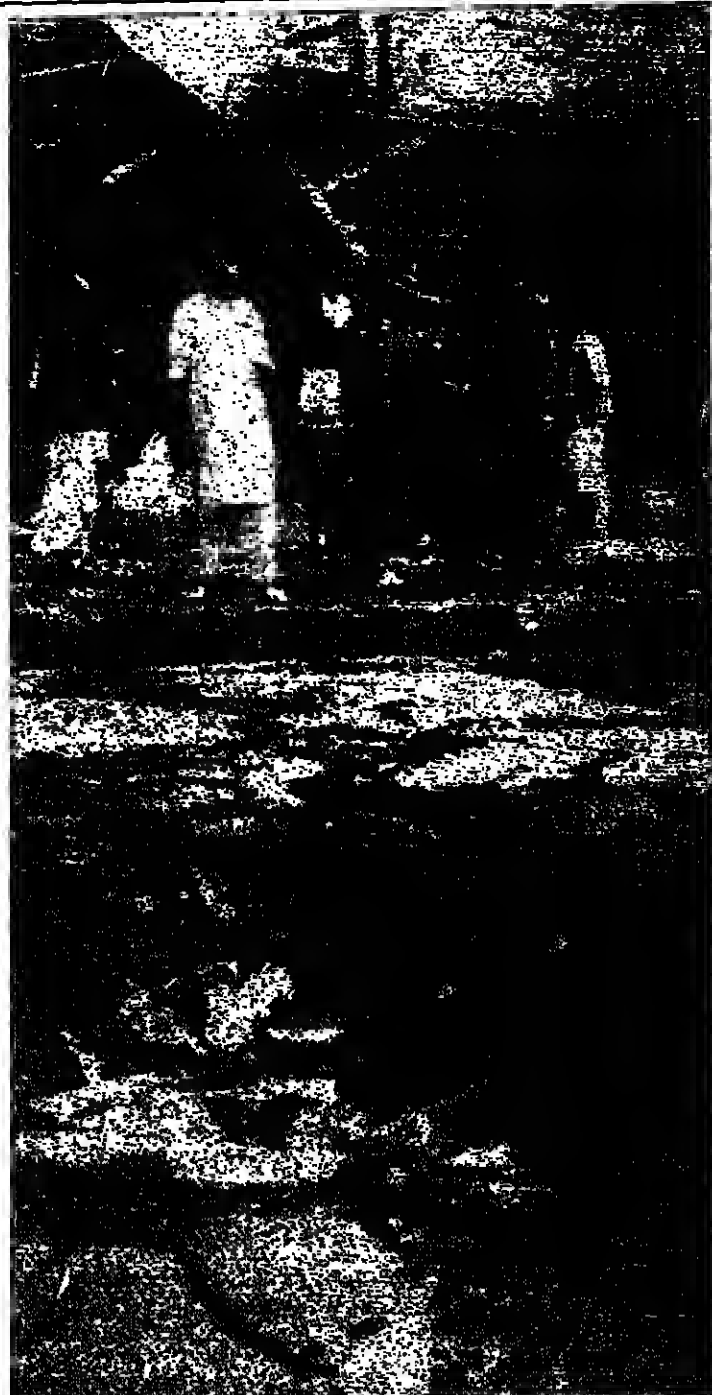
"They are trying to bring out these dissidents and those that have been out of favour to strengthen the party," one diplomat said.

A month ago Najibullah brought back former political foe Mahmood Baryalai and made him first deputy prime minister.

Baryalai, brother of former President Babrak Karmal, was sacked as number two in the PDPA in a purge in 1987 and served several months in jail.

Amani also announced the appointment of junior Foreign Minister Nur Ahmad Nur as Afghanistan's permanent representative at the United Nations.

Nur, currently also ambassador to Warsaw, replaces Shah Mohammad Dost, who has heart problems.



Shopkeepers clean up after a rocket attack in Kabul

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No change in Iran foreign policy under Rafsanjani

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati dictated Monday there would be no dramatic change in the Islamic republic's foreign policy when Iran's new president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, takes over.

Velayati told a news conference Iran would like to resume relations "with all countries with which there is no hurdle in re-establishing ties."

"But the United States is another matter," he said. "The Americans adopted a hostile policy towards us from the very beginning, and they have continued this policy," Velayati said.

Rafsanjani, 54, who emerged as Iran's new strongman after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini June 3, won an overwhelming victory in Friday's presidential election, capturing 94.5 per cent of the vote.

Velayati told reporters that Rafsanjani "has said many times before that when the United States abandons hostility towards us and returns our confiscated properties, it will have shown its good will."

Rafsanjani, currently speaker of the 270-member parliament or Majlis, has said that U.S. expressions of "good will" would lead to better ties and allow Iran to reciprocate by using its influence to free nine U.S. hostages believed held by pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon.

Iran's assets in the United States were frozen after Iranian militants stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran in September 1981 and held 52 Americans hostages for 444 days. The U.S. severed ties with Iran after the embassy takeover.

Velayati said bilateral relations was to be the major topic of discussion when Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Tehran later Monday.

Despite its official policy of "neither East nor West," which Velayati said would continue, Iran's recent confrontations with the West have moved it closer to its northern neighbour, the Soviet Union.

Improvement in Tehran-Moscow ties were highlighted by Rafsanjani's trip to Moscow last month, where he signed a string of agreements totalling \$6 billion, including an arms deal to replenish Iran's depleted military hardware.

But Rafsanjani, considered a pragmatist, is expected gradually to steer the country away from hostility towards the West laid down by Khomeini when he founded the Islamic republic.

Under a new foreign policy approach forged by Rafsanjani, Tehran's ties with the West gradually improved after last August's ceasefire in the Gulf war. But Rafsanjani's efforts were ended by Khomeini's Feb. 14 death decree against the Iranian

born British writer, Salman Rushdie. Khomeini said that his "fatwa" or religious decree that Rushdie should be sought out and killed for blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

European Community (EC) members, plus Sweden and Canada, called home their ambassadors in protest to the death threat, and Tehran reacted in kind by withdrawing its embassy from the 14 countries.

The ambassadors have gradually returned to their missions. But Tehran severed ties with Britain over the affair.

Velayati told reporters that re-summing ties with Britain is possible only within the framework of a law, passed by the Iranian parliament last February.

The law calls for the British government to reverse its stance of opposing the death edict, ban "The Satanic Verses" in Britain and destroy all existing copies of the book.

"What the Imam pronounced was a basic principle, and there is no compromise on this," Velayati said.

Velayati said he also would discuss with Shevardnadze implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 to bring lasting peace between Iran and Iraq after a ceasefire last Aug. 20 in the war. Peace talks between the two countries are deadlocked.

Arrests upset Kahane

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Anti-Arab Israeli rabbi Meir Kahane protested Monday against the arrest of Jewish extremists, calling it "democratic tyranny" and a violation of free speech.

Police raided Kahane's Kach movement offices in occupied Jerusalem Sunday and arrested eight activists of the "state of Judea" movement, a group linked to Kach that plans to declare a second Jewish state in the West Bank if Israel ever withdraws from the occupied territory.

"This government has no right to silence views and if it does it loses its legitimacy," Kahane told a news conference of foreign reporters. "The Israeli press boycotts him because of his extreme anti-Arab political views."

He called the arrests on suspicion of sedition "a clever form of democratic tyranny."

"Judea was established not to challenge the state of Israel. It was established so that when Israel pulls out of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), at that time the state will come into being outside the province of Israel," he said.

The U.S.-born Kahane supports the expulsion of Israeli Arabs and of all Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. His movement was barred from parliamentary elections last year as racist. He vowed that Judea's activities would continue.

Police said they made arrests of Judea activists in Jerusalem, Haifa, the Golan region and Kiryat Arba in the West Bank.

"During searches of the homes of the suspects a flag, a stamp, cheque books and postage stamps of the state of Judea were found along with documents and computer disks which were taken for investigation," police said.

Most of those arrested were Kach members. They included spokesman Baruch Muzel, a settler in Hebron, two Kach activists from the neighbouring Kiryat Arba settlement and Rabbi Michael Ben Chorin.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian defence minister to visit U.S.

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Defence Minister Youssef Sabri Abu Taleb will visit the United States next month in his first trip there since his appointment, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Sunday. Abu Taleb took up his post in April, replacing powerful defence chief Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala who had been widely regarded as the number two man in Egypt. MENA said Abu Taleb would visit the U.S. from Aug. 7 to Aug. 11 at the invitation of U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney to discuss defence cooperation. The U.S. gives Egypt about \$2.3 billion a year in aid, of which \$1.3 billion is in military aid.

Iran continues round-up of drug addicts

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian official in the country's southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province said Sunday that government employees would be among drug addicts sent to hard labour camps for up to a year to reconvert. Tehran Radio reported. The broadcaster quoted the unidentified head of the province's main law enforcement agency, the Komiteh, as saying that all drug addicts in the province, including government employees, will be rounded up and sent to one of four labour camps in Sistan-Baluchistan. Government employees will be relieved from their posts for the duration of their stay, the radio quoted the official as saying. Repeated offenses by civil servants would result in jail sentences and a ban on holding government jobs, he said in the report monitored in Nicosia. The official said pushers will be "severely punished," and their property confiscated by the government.

Kurdish guerrillas kill 4 villagers

ERUJ, Turkey (AP) — Suspected Kurdish guerrillas raided a village in southeastern Turkey and killed four people, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Sunday. The agency said a group of 15 guerrillas shot to death two guards as they raided the Gulburnu village. A village and newly-born infant were burned to death when the Kurds set two houses afire, the report said. The Kurds took two youths with them as they fled the village after the attack, the report said. Meanwhile, insurgents blew up a bridge which was being built between the Dereler and Dedecoren villages in Sirnak township some 50 kilometres south of Erzurum, Anatolia said. Kurdish rebels are fighting for an independent state in parts of eastern and southeastern Turkey.

Iran warns Austria in Kurdish affair

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian Foreign Ministry charged Sunday that the Austrian government was playing a "suspicious political game" in naming Iranian diplomats as suspects in the assassination of a Kurdish resistance leader in Vienna. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted an unidentified Foreign Ministry official as saying that Austrian authorities were not investigating the July 13 shooting death of Abdul Rahman Qassemlovi, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) of Iran. Instead they were pursuing a "political game and propaganda warfare," IRNA quoted the official as saying. IRNA said the Austrian media had joined in the game by reporting that Iranian diplomats were suspects in the shooting death and that one of the Iranian diplomats injured in the shooting had purchased the motorcycle that the assassins used to escape. The Foreign Ministry reiterated a previous statement that it considers Austria responsible for the safety of an Iranian diplomat missing since the shooting.

'Perestroika' comes to South Yemen

ADEN (R) — South Yemen is introducing major political and economic reforms aimed at correcting its "past mistakes" and improving relations with its estranged neighbours.

The ambitious plans, published Sunday in the official weekly magazine Al Thawri, set new economic, foreign and domestic policy goals.

Coming more than three years after President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas took power after Ali Nasser Mohammad was ousted in a bloody coup, the move is a clear sign that South Yemen is determined to break from the isolationist strictures of previous governments.

The South Yemeni reforms were first suggested in May when they were dubbed in the regional press as Aden's perestroika, a reference to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of economic liberalisation.

Since assuming power Attas has agreed to jointly explore for oil with neighbouring North Yemen, and holds reunification of the two Yemens as a long-term goal. He has also eased strained relations with Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The programme, signed by

Secretary-General of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party Ali Salim Al Baidh calls for a reshaping of South Yemen's leadership and closer identification with Arab and Islamic culture.

It calls for "correcting wrong stands on Arab and Islamic culture and religion... religious leaders and rebuilding mosques and other religious institutions."

"The new policies aim at following up internal and external changes and boosting Aden's relations with other nations, especially countries in the region," Baidh said.

The changes include pledges to revise the constitution, rotate the job of president, allow the publication of new newspapers and guarantee civil rights.

The plan urges South Yemenis to invest their capital at home and to rebuild the troubled economy. To underline the reforms South Yemeni Premier Yassin Said Noman travelled to Saudi Arabia Sunday where he was to lobby some of the estimated half-million of his countrymen working in the kingdom to invest in foreign currency bonds.

Foreign remittances from workers overseas are among Aden's chief foreign currency



Haidar Abu Bakr Attas

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PLO executives review peace moves, strategy

BAGHDAD (Agencies) The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Monday wrapped up two days of meetings on recent Palestinian moves for Arab-Israeli peace, PLO sources said.

The sources, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, said the meetings chaired by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat focused on the latest developments in the Israeli-occupied territories and proposals for a Middle East settlement.

However, they declined to say whether Arafat's four-point peace plan was discussed in the meetings.

Arafat's proposal, made last week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, calls for ending Israel's occupation on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip within 27 months and setting a date for the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state.

The plan still has to be reviewed and endorsed by the other PLO leaders.

Analysts noted that the PLO leader had not rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories.

They said the election idea could be positive if it leads to the

withdrawal of the Israeli troops and sets a date for Palestinian independence.

The committee also discussed progress in the PLO-U.S. dialogue started last December.

Fatch congress

Hundreds of delegates from Fatch, the main PLO faction, have arrived in Tunis for a congress which will fill vacancies in the leadership and review Arafat's peace moves.

The meeting is expected to open in the next few days, possibly Thursday.

The 1,050 delegates will elect at least five new members to the 10-man Central Committee, to replace five who have been assassinated or expelled since the last congress, held in Damascus in 1980.

Salem Khalaf, who is Arafat's deputy in Fatch, has said the new members would bring new blood to a committee dominated by men who created Fatch in Kuwait more than 25 years ago.

A substantial hardline group within Fatch is challenging Arafat's policy of relying on diplomatic methods to bring about a Palestinian state.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 75111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
17:05	Sea Hunt
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
19:10	Agricultural programme
19:45	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Le Monde Est a Vous
17:40	News in French
19:15	Douce France
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Paul Daniel's Magic Show
21:10	My Wicked, Wicked Way
22:00	News in English
22:30	Wish Me Luck II
PRAYER TIMES	
06:17	Fajr
06:45	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42	Dhuhr
16:22	Asr
19:38	Maghreb
21:07	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweithel Tel. 816740	
Assistance of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terresants Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625243	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 612285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saluts Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and windy with be northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ING CONGRATULATES SWITZERLAND: His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to the Swiss president congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of the people and government of Jordan on his country's National Day. The King wished the Swiss resident, continued good health and happiness and the friendly wish people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

CROWN PRINCE CONDOLES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday delegated his private advisor Dr. Jawad J. Ma'az Khayyat, (Petra)

HARIF Zaid CONDOLES: Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Baker Monday delegated Director of Ma'an Police Department to convey his condolences to the Khayyat family on the death of the late Ma'az Khayyat. (Petra)

EXHIBITION OF CARTOONS: Minister of Information and Culture Nasouh Al Majali Tuesday opens an exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rabah Al Sghayyar who used to work for the Jordan Press Foundation, Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times. The exhibition, which will be held at the Plastic Artists Association, is organised by the association and the Jordan Press Foundation. (J.T.)

IMPORTS FROM THE WEST BANK: Agriculture Minister Hamdan Badran Monday allowed the importation of agricultural products from the West Bank as of Aug. 1. The minister allowed the importation of plums, and pears from Hebron and Ramallah area, 10 dry garlic from the various parts of Jordan. The minister's decision also allowed the importation of water and sweet melon from Nablus and Nabulus as of Aug. 10 and until Sept. 10, and the importation of onion from Nabulus and Jenin areas from Aug. 15 until Aug. 30.

QASHI BRIEFS BELGIAN JOURNALISTS: Aqaba Region Authority President Bassam Qashish Monday received a Belgian press delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of Ministry of Tourism, and briefed them on Aqaba and its unique location at the centre of the whole Arab World. Qashish spoke to the delegation members about the wealth contained in the gulf, including the corals, and the sea life, and briefed them on the purpose of forming the Royal Diving Club at the southern sea shore, to provide an opportunity to professional and amateur divers to see the corals on the sea bed. (Petra)

RAB FARMERS AND PEASANTS UNION MEETS: The Jordan Cooperatives Organisation Director General Mureid Al Al Monday left for Baghdad to take part in the meetings of the general Union of Arab Farmers and Peasants, due to start in Baghdad Tuesday. During the three-day meetings, heads of the farmers and peasant cooperatives in the Arab World will discuss the union's annual report, the union's present and future plans of action and the means capable of developing the union's work. (Petra)

RC TRAINING COURSE: A training course began Monday at the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) in Ma'an. A total of 35 ARC employees have participated in the ten-day course which includes courses in industrial security, labour law, economic development in Jordan and other subjects of interest to the employees. (Petra)

HLIFAT RECEIVES SUDANESE ENVOY: Minister of South Dr. Awad Khleifat Monday received Sudanese Ambassador Jordan Mujib Radwan at the conclusion of his tour of duty. (Petra)

ORPHAN CHILD FORUM OPENS: A total of 600 children have participated in the activities of the Eighth Orphan Child Forum which opened Monday at the Islamic Centre in Zarqa. The nine-day forum includes lectures about environment and voluntary work. The children will take part in scientific trips to Jordan's cultural and historic sites. The forum was opened by the Zarqa governor. (Petra)

IBID ROAD PROJECTS: Department of Public Works has instructed a number of roads in the various parts of Irbid Governorate at a cost of JD 674,611 during this year. The new roads include a number of villages and towns, including Ousara, Zibda, azar, Um Rameh, Wahadieh, Hashimieh, Halawalt, Amrawah, uaymah, Taybeh, Buslra, Huweishan and Balila. However, the department is currently constructing roads in Sakel, Husainiyat, shimeh, Halaweh, Jiffin, Abu Al Qein, Zahar and Kufi Rahla at a cost of JD 212,960.

RAPHIC ARTS EXHIBITION: A three-day exhibition of graphic Arts was opened Monday at the University of Yarmouk. The exhibition, which was opened by Yarmouk University President Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, includes works and designs dealing with folk, stickers, illustrations and drawings. (Petra)

AFRAQ ROAD PROJECTS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yusef Hamdan Monday agreed to offer a tender to open and asphalt a number of roads in Maghir urban township in Ma'raq Governorate at the cost of JD 25,000. He also agreed to offer another tender to build a new municipal building for Um Qais Municipality in the Irbid Governorate at the cost of JD 1,700. (Petra)

Iraqi Awqaf Ministry completes restoration of royal cemetery

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Iraqi Awqaf Ministry has completed the renovation and restoration works of the royal cemetery in A'zamiyah at a cost of more than a million dinars. The Iraqi Awqaf Minister Abdullah Al Fadel said that the project was carried out in implementation of the directives of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who ordered the ministry to move the remains of the late King Faisal of Iraq to the royal

cemetery to be buried beside the tomb of this late Father King Ghazi.

Speaking about the project, Fadel said that it included the construction of domes, planting trees in the cemetery gardens, installing chandeliers and developing its elevation.

The minister noted that the Awqaf Ministry has prepared briefing papers on the history of the cemetery, and the Kings,

and Princesses buried in it, in addition to an outline about the efforts made to develop and reconstruct it.

The royal cemetery was constructed at A'zamiyah in 1933. It includes three sections with cylinder-like shapes and domes.

Bodies of the Kings who ruled Iraq since the declaration of the Iraqi Kingdom and the crowning of Faisal I as King of Iraq in 1921, are buried there.

Unified Admissions Office prepares standard university application forms

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four Jordanian universities have formed a coordination committee for the admission of Tawjili students. Yarmouk University President and director of the Unified Admissions Office Dr. Mohammad Hamdan said Monday.

He said, in a statement to the "Call In Radio Programme" of Radio Jordan, that the committee prepared a standard application

form including the fields of specialisation in the four universities.

When using this form, he said the student can list the priorities as related to the university and the field of specialisation. Noting that the total number of specialisation in the four universities are 53, he said that science students can specialise in any of these fields while the art students' choice is limited to on 23 fields.

Hamdan said that the Unified Admissions Office will release the list of accepted students who will be committed to the university and the field of specialisation assigned to them.

He noted that the officials of the admissions offices in the four universities will soon launch an awareness campaign through the information media on these measures and the standard form.

Jordan, UNDP and AFSED sign water management, planning accord

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government Monday signed an agreement for the management and planning of water resources in Jordan with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Fund for Social Economic Development, under which the UNDP and AFSED will provide technical assistance to Jordan worth \$700,000, to be shared equally by

them.

The programme, aims at improving management and planning methods, through training of Jordanian cadres by U.N. experts, and drawing up a general framework for water policy in Jordan, establishing an information bank on water resources and modernising the national water plan.

The agreement was signed for the Jordanian government by Planning Minister Zaid Fariz, while it was signed for the UNDP by its resident representative in Jordan Ali Artiga and by AFSED representative.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Planning Ministry's Secretary General Safwan Touqan and senior officials.

Conference of Arab states hosting Palestinian refugees begins today

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman will host the conference of the supervisors of Palestinian refugees affairs in the host Arab countries, which begins here Tuesday.

The week-long conference will discuss a number of issues relevant to the Palestine question, including the latest developments which took place since the last conference was held last year, the report of the Arab League's Palestinian Affairs Department on the Palestine question and the

Palestinian affairs.

The report deals with the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the Israeli practices and provocative measures against the Palestinian people, the Israeli settlement policy and the Jewish immigration and the counter immigration.

Conferences will also discuss scopes of cooperation, between the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees and the Un-

ited Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Taking part in the conference will be delegations from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, the Arab League's Palestinian Affairs Department, and Jordan.

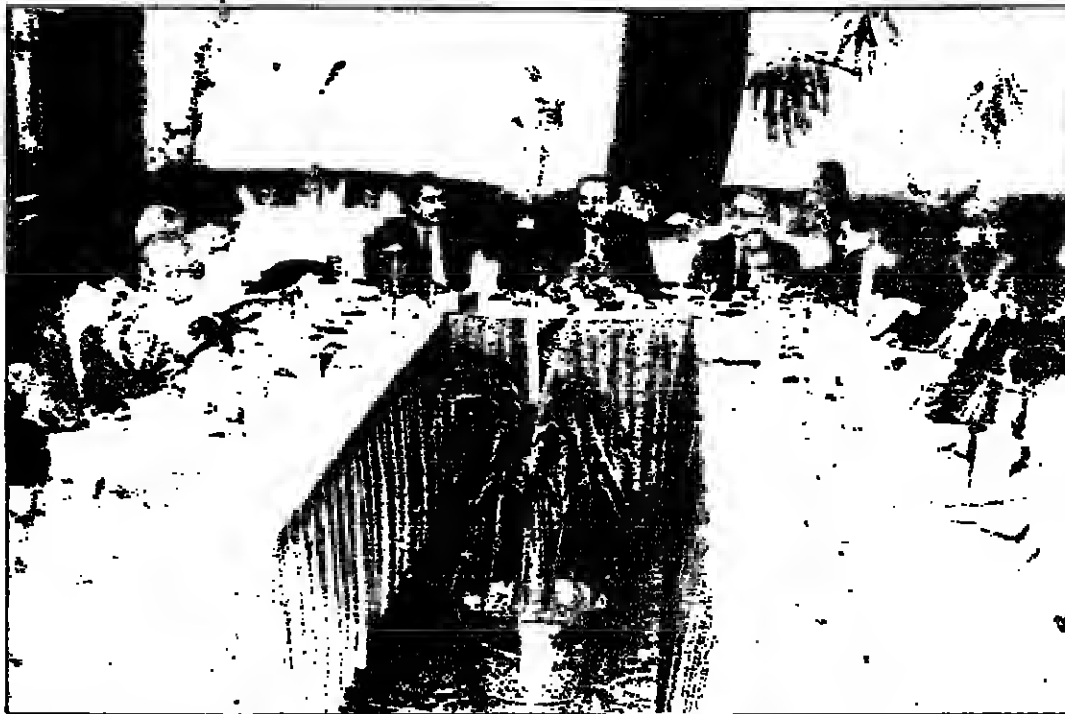
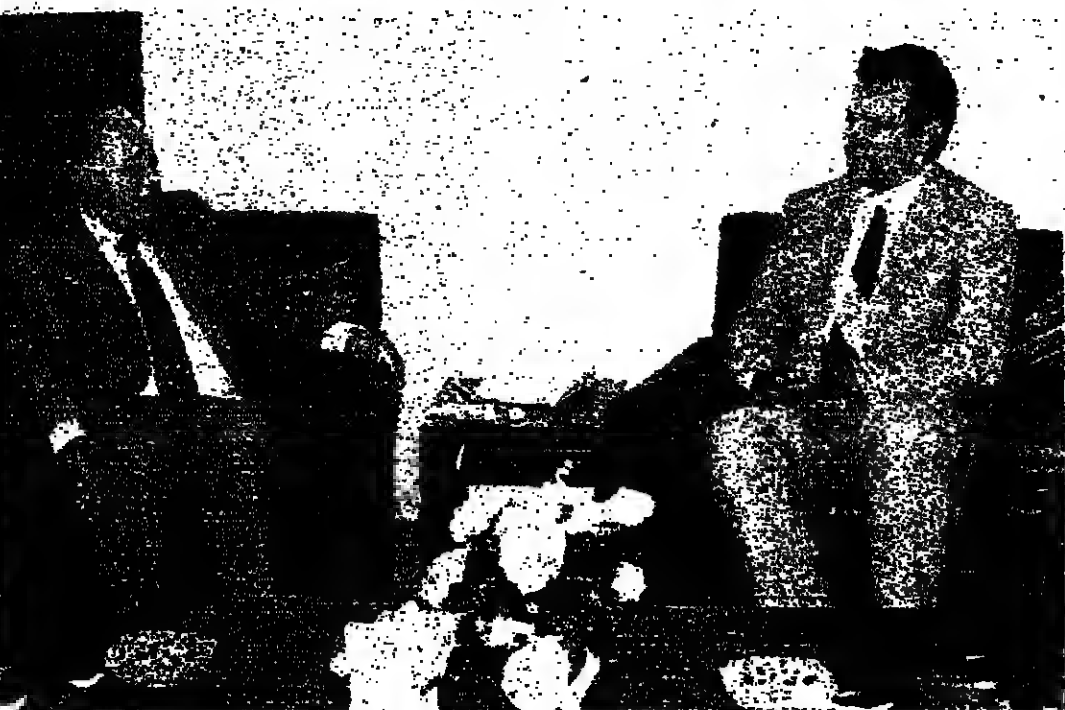
The Jordanian delegation to the meetings will be headed by the Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ahmad Qatanni.



Samra receives Iraqi team, Romanian envoy

AMMAN — University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra Monday met a delegation from the Iraqi University of Mustansiriyah (above), headed by Hamid Al Hiti, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between the university and the Iraqi University. They also agreed to holding Romanian photo exhibition at the University on the occasion of Romania's National Day on Aug. 9. (J.T.)

This year's information campaign, mounted jointly by the ministry and UNICEF includes radio and television spots, in addition to press spots, highlighting the new methods for the prevention of diarrhoea and dehydration.



Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali Monday explains Jordan's stand on different issues to the local and international press (Petra photo)

Majali meets local, foreign press

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information and Culture Nasouh Al Majali Monday met with Arab and foreign news correspondents and discussed with them a host of subjects, including public affairs, the recent measures and policies adopted by the government to correct the economic situation and preparations for the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

In addition to issues of interests to the media.

Majali reviewed with the correspondents the government's efforts to cope with the various challenges and the latest international and regional developments.

The meeting was attended by the Director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Ali Safadi,

and senior agency officials in addition to editors in chief of the local Jordanian newspapers.

Monday's meeting marks the beginning of periodic press fora, during which correspondents will meet with senior Jordanian officials and discuss with them public issues and the latest developments on local, pan-Arab and international scenes.

Youth camp participants visit Sahab

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the third national youth gathering, currently held at Ajloun permanent youth camp, Monday visited the Jordan Industrial Estates City in Sahab and were briefed on its establishment and achievements by its director, Fayez Suheimat.

Suheimat pointed out to the potential great market which will result from the declaration of the

Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and outlined the great potentials for industrial cooperation among the four ACC founding states.

Earlier Monday, director of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's Award office met with the participants and briefed them on the philosophy of the Prince Hassan Award Programme and its objectives.

On Sunday evening, participants met with Higher Education Minister Nassereddin Al Assad who outlined the importance of the gathering in strengthening relations between those in charge of education in the country and the students studying abroad.

Assad said that the ministry follows up on the students affairs through the cultural attaches abroad.

Committee to continue work on revising election list today

AMMAN (Petra) — The committee entrusted with reconsidering the election tables, in accordance with the election law No. 22 and its amendments, will resume their work in revising and updating the election lists as of Aug. 1.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry said that the committee, which will work until Aug. 15, will revise and update the election lists and will add

names of eligible voters.

The committees called on eligible citizens, each in his constituency to look at the election lists to make sure their names are on them.

The committees also called on those who attained the 19th year of age, whose names have not been listed, to register their names at their constituencies. The sources said that the

ministry has given instructions to all committees involved to facilitate the procedures of registration of names and has ordered the opening of sub-offices where eligible voters can register their names.

The ministry called on all eligible voters to cast ballots, in fulfillment of their rights to vote and be elected, as provided for by the constitution.

Head of labourers union praises ministry's bid to address problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Jordanian Building Labourers Association Abdul Razzaq Mohammad Said has described the relation between his association and the Labour Ministry as extremely strong and brotherly.

In an interview with the Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Said said the ministry has contributed significantly to addressing some of the labourers' problems.

He voiced hope that the labour offices will give priority to Jordanian labourers when filling vacancies in the construction field. He praised the Jordanian labourers and described them as very efficient and hardworking.

"They have been the subject of appreciation by employers abroad," he said calling on the

Labour Ministry to try to provide jobs to unemployed Jordanian labourers and to protect them from foreign competition in Jordan.

He pointed out that the association, which had been established 36 years ago, had concluded agreements with employers, under which employers will undertake to give these labourers their full rights, including the 13 and 14 month salaries, annual increments based on their performance, social security entitlements, termination indemnity and provident fund entitlements.

Speaking about the association's achievements, Said said the association has sent 60 labourers on training courses at the Labour

Cultural Institute and the Ministry of Labour institutes and has found job opportunities for a number of labourers abroad.

On the future plans, Said said that the association is working very hard to introduce a comprehensive health insurance scheme for its members, in addition to the social security scheme.

He noted that his association is currently cooperating with the Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions in developing the labour law to cope with the new developments, resulting from the current economic situation.

He stressed the need for developing the labour law to organise the labour market and limit the flow of foreign labour force.

Ministry starts anti-diarrhoea campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry is launching an anti-diarrhoea campaign in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as part of an ongoing programme, designed to increase parents' awareness of the dangers of diarrhoea and dehydration and to inform them about the low cost method for treating dehydration, namely the Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT).

This year's information campaign, mounted jointly by the ministry and UNICEF includes radio and television spots, in addition to press spots, highlighting the new methods for the prevention of diarrhoea and dehydration.

The spots also warn of the great complications of diarrhoea, saying that it might lead to dehydration, the largest single child-killing disease, and malnutrition.

These spots are supported by interviews with well-known and veteran doctors.

The media campaign aims at focusing on the preventive methods, and promoting such practices as breastfeeding, continued feeding during diarrhoeal

episodes, giving children too much liquids to make up for the liquid drained as a result of diarrhoea.

Also of paramount importance are personal hygiene, cleanliness of environment and keeping the

child's food clean and covered.

These spots are part of an integrated health programme prepared by the Health Ministry to spread health awareness among citizens through the media's health and family programmes.

TWO CLINICS IN NORTH GHOR: The Ministry of Health has decided to open two health centres at Wadi Al Yabis and Slikhat in North Ghor so as to provide health services to residents of the two regions who numbers 5,000.

CONDOLENCES

The Sfeir, Gargour, Naccachian, Domlani, and Belouty families announce with great sorrow and grief the death of the late

Dr. George Anton Sfeir

Who passed away Monday, July 31, 1989, following an acute heart attack at the age of sixty-seven. The funeral will be held at Al Maqpara Church on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 1989, at 4:30 p.m. where his body will be laid to rest.

Condolences will be accepted at the residence of the deceased in Jabal Amman, Third Circle near Goethe Institute. Donations can be made to St. Mansour Charitable Society in lieu of wreaths.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and are daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rabah Sghayyar at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani — 5:00 p.m.

A graphic art exhibition by students of Fine Arts Department at the Yarmouk University.

FILM

A German film entitled "Sparks in New-Groundland" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Avoid Lebanon syndrome

THE TALK of the town these days is the "National Pact" which is currently being contemplated by Jordan and Jordanians. It was His Majesty King Hussein who first introduced the proposal in May to articulate a national pact as a prelude to the return to parliamentary life in the Kingdom. Since then Jordanians of all walks of life and representing all schools of thought have been bawling the Jordanian political landscape with various perspectives and points of view on the scope and contents of any such pact. By and large such Jordanian views are harmonious in the sense that their point of departure is loyalty to the Hashemite throne concurrently with the call for the exercise of a string of civil and political rights that are indispensable for the enjoyment of a meaningful parliamentary life.

In this context I personally have not heard yet of any attempt by any version of the proposed national pact to draw heavily on the sad experiences of Lebanon and to offer antidotes at this early hour against any political disease similar to the one that has been ravaging Lebanon for the past decade and a half. By that I mean the need to develop, at this early stage, a contemporary

conceptual framework for citizenship in which all citizens would be indistinguishable on the basis of religion or ethnic origin. For it must be borne in mind that the principal root problem that lies squarely behind the genesis of the contemporary crisis in Lebanon was and is the absence of modern sense of citizenship. With the rise and development of an archaic concept of citizenship in Lebanon, where the Lebanese people were subdivided into competing components on the basis of ethnic or religious grounds, it was inevitable that the Lebanese found themselves in the on-going apocalypse that is consuming the country.

Accordingly, as Jordan is now engaged in drafting its future political course it would be prudent to sound the alarm as of now lest we fall into the "Lebanese syndrome" and find ourselves at a future stage engaged in internal struggles among ourselves. If this proposition is accepted and this warning signal is heeded, the first priority of the projected national pact should be according to the surgical removal once and for all of all semblances of distinction between Jordanians on the ethnic, religious or any other basis.

One of the principal flaws in the Jordanian Election Law is its persistence in treating Jordanians as if they were several components rather than one family bound together by their shared love for their King and country and their concern for the welfare and future stability of their country.

It would certainly be a bold and courageous step for Jordan to embark now on this new course. We are at the threshold of the 21st century and it is high time that we catch up with the principles of the 20th century in these domains. Besides, Jordan has signed and ratified several international treaties which obligates us to remove any lingering distinction between Jordanians on the basis of religion or ethnic origin. These treaties have the force and effect of law in the country and when invoked they take precedence over ordinary national laws.

In short, for all those who are preoccupied with the drafting of our treaty obligations and heed the call for the contemporary concept of citizenship by, inter alia, cancelling the distribution of electoral districts on the basis of religious or ethnic factors.

Shamir's confession

THERE is no better commentary on Israeli prime minister's true intentions and ulterior motives than to quote the words he used when addressing about 200 right-wing rabbis last Thursday. The occasion was the Chief Rabbinate halachic decision that the Torah forbids territorial concessions in the so-called Eretz Yisrael. As if in a confession session before the religious leaders of Israel, Yitzhak Shamir assured his audience that he had no intention of ever ceding even a "silver" of land for peace and pledged to enhance Jewish settlement "everywhere." Shamir went on to say: "Everything that we're doing... is only for Eretz Yisrael and peace." And in outlining his conception of peace, Shamir emphatically rejected the principle of giving up any part of the occupied Arab territories for peace. "Peace," he said, "should and can be attained without forging even a silver of the pupil of our eye, the land of our forefathers, our holy land." And, as if wanting to remove the slightest shred of doubt about where Israel really stands on the future of the occupied territories, the Israeli prime minister told his applauding audience that when Israel and "its neighbours" negotiate a final settlement, it will not include any territorial element.

So there we have it. There is clearly no nonsense about the intentions of the Israeli government under the leadership of Shamir. As for all of those who still demand assurances about the fate of the final stage of the Shamir "peace initiative," his words, which were uttered in the most solemn manner and before so many religious leaders, offer the clearest ever insight of where the projected negotiations under the "Shamir peace plan" would end up.

The big puzzle in all this is why Shamir chose once again to disclose his most inner thoughts on the eve of the Palestinian deliberations over the election formula of Shamir's scheme. It is just possible that Shamir seeks to preempt the PLO's formal decision on the election idea by discouraging its members from rallying in favour of taking it for a try. Should the election idea receive general, albeit conditional, approval from the Palestinian side, Shamir and his clique might very well find themselves in an embarrassing situation. After all Shamir is counting on Palestinian rejection of the idea to save him from facing up to what it could ultimately lead to. If such a scenario is probable, the Palestinian side may still wish to play out Shamir's game to the bitter end by calling his bluff.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ARABIC dailies Monday commented in their editorials on King Hussein's television interview presented Sunday evening in which he tackled the coming parliamentary election, the Palestine question and the general situation in the Middle East as well as the economic situation in Jordan. Al Ra'i daily for its part echoed the King's statement that the Jordanian people can overcome the present obstacles and hardships as they did in the past under more difficult conditions. The paper also noted that the present situation in the Kingdom stems not only from the economic difficulties alone but is due also to external pressure on Jordan which one year ago severed links with the West Bank in a bid to boost the PLO's standing and lend support to the intifada. The Israelis are launching media campaigns on Jordan, they are trying by all possible means to undermine security in the Kingdom and destroy its economy, the paper noted. It said that this campaign was part of Israel's attempt to punish Jordan for its pan-Arab orientation and its national stands in general and for its continued support for the Palestinians in particular. The paper also reiterated King Hussein's words that Jordan will never kneel to pressure and can never succumb to threats and conspiracies.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on the lapse of exactly one year since Jordan decided to sever links with the West Bank. It is not an anniversary that calls for celebration or joy says Mahmoud Al Rimawi in his column, but it is rather a moment to remember that the Arabs should work for unity not divisions. The writer, however, notes that the severance of links with the West Bank has resulted in very positive reactions worldwide and paved the ground for a strategic turning point in the Middle East. The end of legal links with the West Bank has opened the way for a resurgence of the Palestine national action in the face of occupation and continued Zionist settlement in the Arab lands, the writer adds. Jordan was among the first group of nations to recognise the Palestine state which also won support and backing from many nations, the writer points out. He says that the Jordanian decision has paved the way for the U.S.-PLO dialogue in Tunis, presented the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and boosted the oppressed Palestinian people's resistance and bolstered their steadfastness.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the King's statement to Jordan Television in which he reaffirmed the country's determination never to succumb to external pressure and never to give up support for the Palestinian people. The paper noted that the current difficult economic conditions in the Kingdom stem mostly from Amman's political stand vis-a-vis various Arab issues particularly the Palestine issue. It said that despite the work to overcome the present hardships on the domestic front and regardless of the endeavours we are making to stimulate the national economy, Jordan continues its pan-Arab policies with greater confidence. The King's words, the paper added, breathed further self-confidence in the Jordanian people goading them towards a stronger national unity and continued serious action to serve national interests.

By Victor Mallet

WHEN Mr. James Baker, the U.S. Secretary of State, bluntly told Israel in May to forswear annexation of the occupied territories and lay aside "the unrealistic vision of a greater Israel," his audience of pro-Israeli lobbyists was so taken aback that the rest of his speech was all but forgotten.

Mr. Baker, however, had words for the Arabs too. In particular he urged them to end the economic boycott of Israel.

He must know that the primary Arab boycott of trade with Israel — their official refusal to trade with the Jewish state — is unlikely to disappear soon. But the new life breathed into the Middle East peace process over the past year has revived hopes that the boycotting of foreign companies linked to Israel will be quietly shelved. It is this "secondary" aspect of the boycott which has been the bane of many of those seeking to do business with the Arab World since Israel's founding in 1948.

Such hopes have been further nourished by Egypt's recent readmission to the Arab League, a decade after it was suspended for signing the Camp David accord and the subsequent peace treaty with Israel. "Abolishing economic boycotts" was one of the "associated principle" of the accord.

Arab-Israeli politics are only part of the picture. American Jewish groups are pleased with what they see as the increasing effectiveness of U.S. anti-boycott legislation introduced in the 1970s, and they are cock-a-hoop about Coca-Cola. The company sells concentrates for Coca-Cola products to Israel and has been on the Arab League's blacklist in Damascus for more than 20 years. But it has recently set a precedent by successfully moving into Gulf markets, where the secondary boycott has hitherto been strictly applied.

Some countries, especially in North Africa, have always ignored the secondary boycott and only 13 of the League's 22 members apply it. But the hard-liners include the Gulf states, where oil money and hot weather make good customers for soft drink manufacturers. Until now Pepsi-Cola products have had some 70 per cent of the Gulf market.

Coca-Cola began production in Oman last year for sales both there and in the United Arab

Emirates. Involvement elsewhere in the Gulf has been increasing rapidly. Before long the company expects to be producing in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Cadbury Schweppes, whose products are sold under licence in Israel, is still blacklisted despite attempts to have itself cleared. In a letter written four years ago and subsequently leaked to the media — the letter's authenticity was neither denied nor confirmed by the company — Cadbury Schweppes promised the Arabs that it would terminate its Israeli bottling and trademark arrangements. Its executives are watching Coca-Cola developments with interest.

The Coca-Cola story is cited as evidence that the secondary boycott is losing its grip. "We believe it's getting weaker," says Mr. Will Maslow, General Counsel of the American Jewish Congress and Editor of Boycott Report, which monitors the Arab boycott and its impact on U.S. corporations. "More and more American companies are making investments in Israel."

Few people doubt that the boycott has damaged the Israeli economy by inhibiting foreign investment. But the arbitrary way in which the blacklist is applied by individual Arab countries makes it difficult to judge with any degree of accuracy the effectiveness of the boycott — or the effectiveness of U.S. legislation against it.

Companies blacklisted by the twice-yearly meetings of the Arab boycott commissions are not singled out merely for trading with Israel. But investment in Israel, a licensing agreement, or assistance

to the Israeli military can be an "offence" — even if U.S. military contractors are not blacklisted because of their importance for Arab defence requirements.

To police the boycott, the Damascus-based Central Office for the Boycott of Israel or individual governments often send suspect companies questionnaires about their links with Israel, and Arab importers routinely require "negative certificates of origin" to show that no part of the goods was made in Israel.

U.S. compliance with the boycott has been stifled, first by the 1976 Ribicoff amendment, under which a taxpayer with operations in countries applying the boycott forfeits foreign tax credits if he has cooperated with it, and secondly by the boycott provisions of the 1977 Export Administration Act. This forbids participation in boycotts not sanctioned by the U.S. and requires companies to report boycott-related requests to the Commerce Department.

The Department's Office of Anti-boycott Compliance receives some 25,000 such reports a year, mainly from exporters and banks, and in fiscal 1988 it levied \$3.9m in penalties. Safeway Stores agreed to pay a record \$995,000 after facing a number of charges which included submitting the names of potential suppliers to supermarkets in Saudi Arabia for "boycott clearance," although the settlement did not constitute an admission of guilt. Mr. Maslow is confident that U.S. companies have learned to live with the anti-boycott laws. The laws "are deterrents," he

insists, "because there are almost no repeaters."

But Coca-Cola still appears to be an isolated case of a black-listed company doing business in the Gulf. Others have publicly returned to Gulf countries — Ford and Xerox for instance — but they have been removed from the list.

"The major boycotted companies worldwide are in contact with the Arab boycott authorities and with the Central Office, and presenting the documents requested from them to have the ban imposed on them removed," says Mr. Zouheir Akil, Commissioner General of the Boycott Office. "This, of course, is a material proof that the boycott is not weakening but is still effective as before."

British Aerospace, which is selling Tornados to Saudi Arabia, provided the Americans with a neat example of how British companies have complied with the boycott when it ordered six joystick toggle switches worth a total of \$331.80 from Machine Components of Long Island in December last year. BAE included a clause under which the supplier has to guarantee that the parts are not made in Israel and will not be transported by any Israeli carrier. The document was made public by the American company. "It was a genuine mistake and an apology was given to the gentleman and his company," said a BAE spokesman.

Such a clause would have been illegal for a U.S. corporation, but is perfectly legal in Britain, where there is no anti-boycott legislation despite mild official dis-

approval. France and the Benelux countries enforce some regulations, directed partly against anti-Semitism.

"We find the attitude of the British government deplorable," says Mr. Maslow. In London, Mr. Martin Lever, Executive Director of the British Israel Chamber of Commerce, agrees. "Over 150 American companies have some investment in production facilities in Israel since 1948," he says. "There are no British companies with an interest in production in Israel."

Companies in Britain wishing to export to the Gulf usually get their "negative certificate of origin" approved by a local chamber of commerce. It is then passed on to the Arab Boycott Chamber, which in turn sends it to the appropriate Arab embassy for "legalisation."

The great strength of the boycott is its vagueness — neither the rules nor the blacklist have ever been published in full by the League — and the haphazard way in which it is enforced. Some principles have been established by precedent, but companies tend to err on the side of caution: the Arab World is a much bigger market than Israel, and it is difficult for anti-boycott campaigners to say where normal commercial decisions end and anti-boycott compliance begins.

One man defiant about the boycott is Mr. Cyril Stein, Chairman of Ladbroke and a prominent Zionist. Ladbroke was black-listed earlier this year, a move which threatened the operations of some Hilton International hotels, although most of the 12 hotels owned or

managed by Hilton in the Arab World are in countries such as Egypt where the secondary boycott does not apply. The exceptions are in the UAE and Bahrain.

"It hasn't had the slightest effect on business," declares Mr. Stein, who says he has not even been officially notified of the blacklisting. "It may be because of my personal involvement in the Zionist movement in this country... we certainly wouldn't stand for economic blackmail." It is arguable whether European anti-boycott legislation would have the effects desired by Israel and its supporters. As in the case of sanctions against South Africa, European businessmen fear that their competitors in the Far East would reap the benefits.

Although any acceleration of the Middle East peace process following the Palestine Liberation Organization's adoption of a more moderate stance towards Israel should ease the boycott pressure, it is probable that the boycott — however full of holes — will continue to cause headaches for businesses in the foreseeable future.

"It's political more than economic," says Mr. Mahmoud Riyad, a former Secretary General of the Arab League. "It's a moral question. It shows that the Arab countries are angry... We are not ready to live with them (the Israelis) with normal relations unless they withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza and Lebanon."

While the boycott exists and while compliance is legal, many companies working in the Gulf will continue to comply with it. — Financial Times.

Sudan's policies still vague month after coup

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KHARTOUM — The world could abandon Sudan to its own fate unless its new military rulers come to grips with the major problems besetting one of Africa's poorest and most indebted countries, diplomats say.

A month after seizing power, General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir's junta has yet to clearly state how it plans to end civil war in the south, reform the crippled economy or govern the country. "Unless the new leadership gets its act together soon, the world will give up on Sudan,"

said a senior diplomat at the Khartoum embassy of a major Western donor country.

Both Western and Arab diplomats said time was not on the side of Bashir whose June 30 coup toppled Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's civilian government and returned Sudan to military rule after three years of liberal democracy.

"Without positive steps on peace and economic reforms, Sudan runs the risk of being cut off from Western aid," another diplomat said.

Since taking power the junta has issued a flurry of conflicting statements on how it plans to deal

with Sudan's problems.

And the diplomats said Bashir and his 15-man junta might be reluctant to spell out in detail their policies at a time when the junta appeared unable to muster significant popular support.

Another explanation the diplomats gave was that differences existed within the junta on how to govern Sudan and end the costly six-year old war in the south against rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Bashir says he wants a lasting peace and announced last week that talks between his government and the SPLA would start in Addis Ababa during the first

week of August.

But after a series of press statements in which he offered several scenarios for a settlement, including secession and a referendum on the crucial issue of Islamic Sharia law, Bashir now maintains that his government's peace strategy should not be made public.

The SPLA has fought since 1983 in the mainly animist and Christian south to end what it sees as domination by the mainly Arabised and Muslim north. It wants Sudan governed by secular laws.

Diplomats said there were signs that several members of

Bashir's junta learned towards militant Islam and that the general's own heavy pan-Arab rhetoric could badly effect efforts to end the war.

They took as a discouraging sign the fact that Sudanese convicted of corruption or profiteering under Mahdi's rule would be sentenced under a controversial penal code introduced in 1983 and based on sharia.

The code prescribes Islamic punishments such as stoning, amputation of limbs and flogging, but the junta said these penalties would be substituted by jail sentences.

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'We don't like it'

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Michal Sela

IN THE SAME week that security officials accused the Save The Children relief organisation of a biased attitude and over-sympathy with the Palestinians, they turned to the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief, asking it to pay for repairing flats in the Nablus old city which had been destroyed by the army in the course of demolishing other homes of intifada activists.

This is only one indication of the sensitive, ambivalent and complicated relationship between the military government on one hand and the relief and welfare foreign organisations operating in the territories on the other. In trying to approach the subject, one gets the feeling that a highly-classified issue is at stake: the reluctance of both government and organisation officials to talk openly about it is surprising, considering that the subject is well-known.

Philanthropic welfare organisations have existed in the Middle East for a long time, with the churches' schools and hospitals in the 19th century being the most famous, nor would the early Zionist settlements have made it without charity.

Today's private and public voluntary organisations, the PVOs, in the territories are a matter of the last 40 years, most of them of the last 20 years. They help to develop community services of all kinds, are financed by private donations and are all guided by a philosophy of helping deprived communities. Some, mainly the Americans, also receive government aid. Small teams of foreigners run the organisations, while most of the staff are Palestinians with the required skills.

The biggest and most veteran is the UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, established in 1949 to care for the Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. UNRWA built the camps, and provides relief, education and health services.

The U.N. development Programme helps community projects and economic enterprises, such as fishermen's warehouses and the sewage system in Gaza.

The International Red Cross handles issues related to populations at war, such as Palestinian political and security prisoners, house demolitions, or transmission of family information between Palestinians in the territories and their relatives in the Arab countries.

ANERA is the biggest American PVO. It was founded in 1968, "as big changes in the region created a need for basic relief services for refugees," says its local director, Lance Matteson. It engages in planning, financing and professional guiding of economic and agricultural projects.

Save The Children has worked over a decade promoting development and self-reliance through daycare and education programmes, public health, small business aid, agricultural projects, and water sanitation systems.

The Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief was founded before World War II to help Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany; locally it cares for retarded children in a special home, a school and a vocational training centre.

The German-sponsored SOS children's village in Bethlehem for abandoned children has a twin-institution in Arad.

All 22 organisations active in the territories are registered with the Civil Administration welfare office and subject to limited control by the military government. The American PVOs operate on a shared-responsibility basis with the investment divided between the organisation and the Palestinian institute involved. The organisations are totally independent in their budgets and the military authorities have no access to their books.

"All our money transactions go through the bank," says Maria Pal, director of SOS; "I am sure, however, they have access to them."

Despite the humanitarian character of the PVOs, their relationship with the military authorities is loaded with political tension. The military government is very ambivalent towards the charity organisations. The declared attitude is to encourage any foreign aid as long as it does not harm security. "Openness is a part of our policy," a military government source told The Jerusalem Post. It approves most of the suggested projects and avoids unnecessary intervention: "It's almost impossible and it's not worth the international public damage," the source said, referring to such intervention.

The presence of the PVOs makes it possible to advance

Palestinian communities to an improved standard of living with less Israeli money. The military source, however, claimed that "comparing the PVOs' investments in the territories with those of the Civil Administration, this argument is groundless." At the same time, he added, "those organisations are involved in projects that we won't do."

"Watching the extent of development in the territories, without our activity, do you really think that the authorities' actions meet the needs?" an active figure in one of the organisations ironically commented.

The PVOs say their personnel are motivated by pure philanthropy. Lance Matteson, a lawyer, and ANERA's director, went time with the U.S. Peace Corps in Mali and finds the Middle East with its development problems especially challenging. Maria Pal has worked in other children's villages; Gunhild Johansson from the Swedish organisation is a professional educator for retarded children.

The welfare projects operating in 1967 were accepted as part of the existing situation at the time. Ten years ago, when new organisations, mainly American, had registered a strong presence, the military government considered them a hostile element — "at the time the attitude was that anything which does not suit us is PLO and acts against us," the military source said.

This attitude changed with the introduction of the theme of "improving the quality of life," four years ago. Similarly, with the limited budget of the military government, any foreign money for development projects was welcomed.

The intifada has changed the approach to philanthropy: projects that two years ago were regarded as an improvement in the quality of life, are defined now as improving the Palestinians' independence of the Israeli authorities. "Since the beginning of the intifada, they have tended to be more independent in their activities and taken upon themselves new responsibilities," the military source said. "UNRWA, for example, has adopted the Red Cross activity of supervising IDF actions in the territories, and we don't feel at ease with this." The UNDP is trying, according to this source, to initiate projects that by definition encourage independent management, "and we don't like it."

The military government has strongly criticised the PVOs' expressions of support for the popular committees — "and today everyone knows what they are, those committees."

Development towards independence and self-reliance, which is a basic concept of the philanthropic relief philosophy, has become, during the past 18 months, a political notion. Many PVO directors feel that the military government does not like them. They find it difficult to understand why they should be considered a security problem. UNRWA and the Red Cross have even submitted to the military authorities' official complaints about the military and security interference in their work.

"We are here to serve the Palestinians," says Neil Keny, regional director of Save The Children. "We sympathise with the Palestinian families, the same way we do in Costa Rica or Sudan. No Israeli official criticised our sympathy for the Israeli children with whom our Israeli office deals. We are not helping them to be more independent politically; the essence of community development is to help someone to help himself. That is our philosophy."

The organisations suffer from the highly-politicised environment. The military government has not approved projects in cooperation with the Gaza Red Crescent whose chairman, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, is a supporter of the Communists, nor has it approved financial support for a women's association in Abbas, near Khan Yunis, affiliated with the Democratic Front.

The PVOs regard this as political intervention by Israel. With some unspecified PVOs, authorities blocked money that was already deposited in the bank. In a raid on the Gaza Red Crescent, a cheque from one organisation was confiscated.

Collective punishment against villages has harmed agricultural projects. The directors of educational institutions were summoned to the military government which officially ordered them to desist from any study activity, even inside the institutions. Several times, troops raided the school for retarded children in Abu Dis, east of Jerusalem, and took away all children's works bearing Palestinian symbols. "They took the children's drawings but left those with Swedish symbols," Johansson reported. "We were shocked; they opened all the water-tanks and the water came running down

the building. That has no connection to security."

The Civil Administration has not renewed the permit of West Bank employees of the Swedish organisation to drive the organisation's cars bearing Israeli licence plates. "They will do it after a while," Johansson said; "I won't push." She would not interfere in the administrative detention of her pedagogic consultant but submitted a protest to the Swedish government.

"It is not a secret that development is inevitably mixed with politics," Matteson says; "there is much more ground for convergence of interests than people realise... The military government would approve a project because it keeps them busy, while the Palestinians would welcome the foreign contribution to their 'steadfastness'."

Politics is involved also on the Palestinian side. The military government source mentioned the use youngsters made of sewage pipes ready for installation in Jabalya on the first day of the intifada, to block the roads. In Khan Yunis they damaged a slaughter-house built with ANERA's assistance. The wall next to the Children's village entrance is covered with Force-17 graffiti. Maria Pal has been asked more than once by neighbours not to sing with her children because in the intifada Palestinians do not sing. More than once she went to the Bethlehem military headquarters to release one of her boys who refused to remove stones off the road. And when neighbours start reading Koran verses aloud when a boy is killed in town, she feels the suppressed tension among the 68 children of the village. The Swedish school is closed on strike days "because we work with them; the retarded children are also Palestinians and they don't want to come."

Johansson maintains "we are not involved in politics, but our work is influenced by the political situation. Sometimes I am mad at what they do," she adds cautiously. A few days ago, she was asked



by the Nablus welfare office to pay 2,000 dinars for the rehabilitation of four homes in the old city, which were destroyed while the security forces demolished three other homes of people involved in the killing of the soldier Benjamin Meiner last February. The Civil Administration had previously promised to compensate those families. When Johansson visited Nablus recently she was shocked at the demand and the condition of the families.

"In Sweden we are worried when a child destroys a bird's nest — and here they destroy houses." In another case, a father who lives with his family in a tent after the destruction of his house told her that their major problem is the scorpions in the

summer. She is annoyed also because since last July the health insurance of West Bankers was invalidated by the authorities for treatment in Israeli hospitals.

"The welfare services asked us to help pay the insurance for several people; now it is not valid." A woman with brain cancer asked her help to pay for the inevitable treatment.

"Of course I love the Palestinians," Johansson responded to the accusation that the PVOs are biased. "I have nothing against Israel, even if I'm critical about what they are doing in the territories; but I've lived with the Palestinians for many years; they share their lives with me, they appreciate my work. I am not ashamed of my love."

Polluted river a symptom of Italy's environmental suffering

By Terry Leonard
The Associated Press

MILAN, Italy — Generations of fishermen once reaped a bounty from the cool, fresh waters of the Lambro before the river became an open wound clogged with garbage, stinking with sewage and laced with pesticides.

Today, much of Italy is marred by a pall of smog, acres of concrete and millions of tons of industrial waste and urban garbage. Its waters are becoming poisoned, its landscape scarred, its forests withered by acid rain.

The Lambro has become a symbol of Italy's ecological failures. Previous plans to clean it and an ambitious new project are cited as graphic examples of why the government fails in efforts to preserve the environment.

Ecologists see the Lambro as one symptom of Italy's allergic reaction to its own 20th century. They say the river's fetid banks are a result of the feverish post-war economic expansion that is making Italy, quite literally, filthy rich.

Chemical wastes and agricultural runoff contaminate the Lambro as it flows like a sewer through Italy's industrial heartland, from near Lake Como past Milan to just west of Piacenza, where it empties into the Po.

The Po, the country's longest and most polluted river, winds through some of Italy's most fertile farmland before it finally spills its toxins into the increasingly endangered Adriatic.

"The Lambro is responsible for 30 per cent of the total pollution in the Po," said Gianfranco Mascazzini, an environmental official with Lombardy's regional government. "So the pollution is not only a problem because of what it does in Lombardy, but also because of what it does to the Po and the Adriatic."

He notes the pollution also is seeping into Lombardy's soil and beginning to contaminate the aquifer that supplies 90 per cent of Milan's drinking water.

A year ago, the government approved a five-year, 4.8-trillion-lire (\$3.55-billion) project to clean the air, soil and water around the Lambro. It bailed the plan as a model, one that could lead to 30 trillion lire (\$22 billion) in additional spending if extended to the rest of Italy.

But the work has not begun, stalled primarily by the relentless political squabbling common at all layers of Italian government. Various local governments and private industry have fought over their share of the funding and control of the project.

Environmental groups insist the plan is just another temporary remedy doomed to fail because it will not do enough to fight pollution sources.

"Unfortunately the idea of medium-or long-term actions to fight pollution does not exist in Italy," said Mario Zerbin, a spokesman for the environmental Greens party.

Zerbi and World Wildlife Fund ecologist Michele Mauri contend the government is too strongly allied with big business, lacks the political will to confront long-term problems and reacts only to emergencies, such as the current algae invasion along Adriatic coastal resorts.

With its own major interest in energy and chemical companies, the government also is one of the polluters.

A recent ministry of the environment report noted Italy only has the capacity to dispose of — while meeting legal requirements for doing so — about 30 per cent of the 97.4 million tons of waste it produces each year, including 3.8 million tons considered toxic or dangerous.

Italian companies have tried to export some of the waste. But that led to problems with other countries, such as Nigeria, which forced Italy to repatriate shiploads of hazardous wastes dumped illegally there.

The ministry of the environment report also said half the 1,600 water purification plants in

cities with a total population of 23 million don't work. It said 2 million people in other cities drink water tainted with herbicides and pesticides.

The ministry said at least half the trees in Italian forests suffer damage from acid rain. In 1987 alone, it said Italy coughed 380,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, 2 per cent of the earth's emissions of the gas considered a major contributor to the "greenhouse effect," or warming of the planet.

"Italy was relatively slow to come to awareness about its environmental problems," said Christopher Flavin, a vice president with the Worldwatch Institute in Washington.

"Compared to Northern Europe, the air and water quality is worse... and Italy has a lot more toxic wastes. It is a result of its lagging policies," Flavin said in a telephone interview.

Environment Minister Giorgio Ruffolo said this year that the government aims to reduce pollution by 35 to 40 per cent over the years. Mascazzini argues the Lambro plan is a new beginning toward the end.

"We agree that it is no longer possible to arrive at conclusive, effective environmental results by confronting the problems a piece at a time," Mascazzini said. "The Lambro plan is an attempt to better organise the realisation of so many things, so many projects."

It aims to restore the territory between the banks of the Lambro, Seveso and Olona rivers. It would build five new water purification plants, enlarge 40 others and construct new sewer networks, pumping stations and waste treatment plants.

The plan also would invest billions of lire (millions of dollars) to clean the air, stem noise, build new parks and nature reserves and add safeguards to high-risk industries in densely populated areas.

President turned farmer

WASHINGTON — "We have a proverb in Africa. When two elephants fight, the grass suffers. When two elephants make love, the grass also suffers."

General Olusegun Obasanjo enjoys peppering his speech with colourful phrases, but on this occasion, his mood is distinctly somber. The former head of state of Nigeria was in the U.S. to talk about African problems, and the message is a gloomy one. The striking image of the elephants is the general's wry response to the thawing of relations between the power-houses of China, the Soviet Union and the United States.

"Of course it's good that the East and West are sorting out their differences, but for Africa it means that we are left out in the cold to a greater degree than ever," said the man who was head of Nigeria's military government from 1976 to 1979.

"Statistics say that things have improved recently in Africa, but it was Winston Churchill who said that statistics can be used to prove 'lies, damned lies,' Obasanjo quipped. "In actual fact, the average African is worse off than ever before since independence."

The picture he paints is a depressing one — of a continent riddled with social unrest, where food riots break out almost daily. During his visit news came of more violent clashes in Nigeria where people have taken to the streets to protest against soaring food prices.

Obasanjo is a man close to the land. On retiring from mainstream politics he went into farming, starting with poultry and moving onto pigs, maize, cassava and soya beans. "Exactly a week after I left office, the bulldozers moved in to clear the land, and I began farming," said the towering former chief of staff. "My background was rural. I was born and brought up in a village, so it was natural that I should return to this style of life afterwards."

As a politician turned farmer, Obasanjo is critical of the handling of Africa's agriculture by many of the continent's governments. "I think most African governments pay lip service to agriculture, but sad to say not many of them have put their words into action," he said. "In Africa our economy is based almost exclusively on agriculture, because the things that we do have are large areas of land, and reserves of human resources. If we are going to make progress in becoming industrialised then we must be able to feed ourselves, and to grow what we eat."

"I think the problem is that there has been a lack of vision. There has been inadequate management and mismanagement," he added. "African governments need to give more encouragement to their farmers. They need to provide a greater input, and they need to provide it at the right time... It's not like manufacturing, when you buy the raw materials, switch on your machines and start producing straight away. With agriculture, it depends on the seasons. Certain things have to be done at certain times. If they are not, then the rains come and go, and there is nothing you can do. If you don't harvest at the right time, a lot of crops are wasted through spoilage. In my view, the African governments should provide more backing for their farmers, to help them with the harvest of their crops, the storage, and maybe even the processing."

But if Obasanjo is critical of African leaders, he is even more so of the developed countries and institutions which, he claims have shown little understanding of Africa's problems.

He sharply condemns the International Monetary Fund (IMF) whose debt restructuring policies — hard-hitting economic programmes which aim to put debtor countries back on a sound footing — have been responsible for recent riots from Nigeria, to Jordan and Argentina, he claims.

"The demands of the IMF are totally unrealistic and are causing a great deal of social unrest

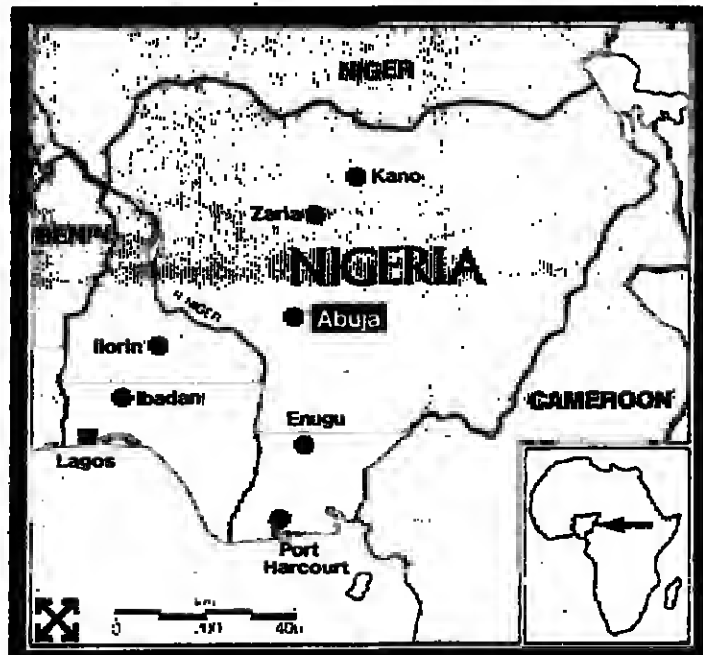
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"I think the problem is that there has been a lack of vision. There has been inadequate management and mismanagement," he added. "African governments need to give more encouragement to their farmers. They need to provide a greater input, and they need to provide it at the right time... It's not like manufacturing, when you buy the raw materials, switch on your machines and start producing straight away. With agriculture, it depends on the seasons. Certain things have to be done at certain times. If they are not, then the rains come and go, and there is nothing you can do. If you don't harvest at the right time, a lot of crops are wasted through spoilage. In my view, the African governments should provide more backing for their farmers, to help them with the harvest of their crops, the storage, and maybe even the processing."

But if Obasanjo is critical of African leaders, he is even more so of the developed countries and institutions which, he claims have shown little understanding of Africa's problems.

He sharply condemns the International Monetary Fund (IMF) whose debt restructuring policies — hard-hitting economic programmes which aim to put debtor countries back on a sound footing — have been responsible for recent riots from Nigeria, to Jordan and Argentina, he claims.

"The demands of the IMF are totally unrealistic and are causing a great deal of social unrest



General Obasanjo: After a military and political career, General Olusegun Obasanjo has turned to farming. (WNL)

throughout the developing world," Obasanjo said. "Of course we have African representatives on the IMF, but they have little doubt. As always, it is

the people who pay the piper who call the tune — that is to say, the industrialised countries. We in Africa accept that that is the case, but I say that these countries

should think through the problem more clearly. There is absolutely no point in calling a tune, if it is one that we cannot dance to." — World News Link.

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في الأصل

West lines up aid for Poland, Hungary but offers no bail-out

BRUSSELS (R) — The West will increase its support for sweeping political and economic reform in Poland and Hungary this week but is in no mood to bail out the creaking economies of either Communist state.

A huge coordination effort, launched at the Paris summit of the world's richest nations two weeks ago, is expected to culminate at a Brussels meeting Tuesday in a pledge of new food aid for Poland plus advice and expertise for both nations.

But for Warsaw, the prize of big new credits or a reprieve on part of its \$39 billion debt will almost certainly have to wait until the country's political crisis is solved.

"There is a tremendous political desire to get into the reforming countries of the Eastern Bloc and do what we can," said one diplomat in Western Europe.

"But at this stage it really is tinkering at the edges... In the end it is individual countries which must shoulder the burden of reform."

Western officials say the 23 nations gathering in Brussels for Tuesday's meeting face a dilemma born of expectations raised by U.S. President George Bush's sweep through Poland and Hungary in early July.

With dramatic steps towards democracy taken in both nations, Washington and its allies are determined to keep up the momentum and seize the chance to foster capitalist ideals of private enterprise, liberal trade and free markets.

But, at the risk of disappointing expectations in Poland, officials are increasingly concerned that the political crisis there means the government is not yet able to undertake a coherent programme of economic reform — and make it stick.

That means that rescheduling some of the \$26 billion Poland owes to Western governments is unlikely to be considered until October at the earliest.

The International Monetary Fund, according to some Western officials, is still a long way from extending credits and that could block \$325 million of loans from the World Bank.

Tuesday's meeting, organised by the European Commission, coincides with one of the biggest tests yet for Poland's drive for a

freer economy when the shortage-plagued food system is exposed to market forces.

The so-called marketisation plan has prompted dire warnings of price rises and protest strikes from opposition economists in Warsaw who told President Wojciech Jaruzelski and parliament Friday that Poland was on the brink of disaster.

The seven summit nations — The United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — have ruled out a large scale economic bail-out for reformist East Bloc states.

Instead, the seven said assistance should "sustain the momentum of reform through inward investment, joint ventures, transfer of managerial skills, professional training and other ventures which would help develop a more competitive economy."

But in practical terms it means a slow process in which the West, constrained by its own budget problems, tries to achieve maximum leverage with limited infusions of cash.

Western officials argue the economies of Eastern Europe do not need more debt but more efficient markets.

It is, however, unclear to what extent the West is ready to open

up its own broders to any influx of East Bloc goods.

Polish officials concede tariff concessions agreed in a five-year European Community (EC) trade deal last week will yield a benefit of only \$5.5 million in 1990.

Hungary, whose foreign debt totals \$18 billion, is likely to follow a similar line to Poland, arguing that it needs free export markets for its agricultural and industrial goods, plus training and management expertise.

Polish Agriculture Minister Kazimierz Olejnik told Reuters in Warsaw that Poland wanted more Western investors setting up joint ventures, especially in food processing.

"What we need is not just financial help, which is a drop of water in the sea of our needs, but constant trade and investment cooperation that would introduce foreign capital," he said.

For Warsaw, more offers of food aid are expected to add to a recent EC pledge of \$120 million worth of meat, grain, fruit and oil from its stocks.

"A hungry Pole is an angry Pole," a Brussels-based Polish diplomat said. "We desperately need food supplies and help with getting our agriculture going."

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Exxon Valdez enters San Diego Port

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — Four months and 2,500 miles after it caused the worst U.S. oil spill ever, the tanker Exxon Valdez finally entered San Diego Harbour for repairs Sunday. The 1987-foot (300 metres) tanker headed for the National Steel and Shipbuilding Co Shipyards, where it was built in 1985-1986, Coast Guard spokesman Stephen Lalonde said. The Exxon Valdez, towed from Alaska's Prince William Sound, had been scheduled to enter the port three weeks ago, but the Coast Guard and the State of California barred it because of worries about pollution. A 17-mile-long oil slick was spotted near the Valdez soon after its arrival off San Diego. The slick disappeared later. To bring its tanker into port, Exxon signed an agreement with California calling for it to post a \$10 million bond and fund a cash account of up to \$10 million to clean up any pollution the ship might cause.

Manila, banks to begin debt talks

MANILA (R) — The Philippines begins talks with its creditor banks in New York on Aug. 8 in a bid to be the first country after Mexico cash in on a U.S.-sponsored plan to cut Third World debt, a foreign banker has said. The banker, who is close to the debt negotiations but declined to be named, said the date was agreed during preliminary discussion between Manila negotiators and the banks' advisory committee in New York on July 19-21. The Philippines has a \$28 billion foreign debt, about half of it to commercial banks. It will seek \$1.7 billion in new loans and a reduction of existing debt, Manila financial officials say. The Japanese News Agency Kyodo quoted Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez as saying at the end of the July New York meeting Manila was confident the banks "now understand both the country's need for additional new bank financing and the benefits that will follow from debt reduction initiatives."

Tritium reactors to cost 4 times estimate

NEW YORK (AP) — The government's three tritium-producing nuclear reactors — the nation's only source of radioactive gas used in nuclear warheads — will cost more than four times the previous estimate to repair and restart, according to a published report. In December, the Energy Department estimated that repairs at the Savannah River site in South Carolina would cost \$350 million and be completed in 1990. But a confidential report submitted to the department on June 26 by the Westinghouse Savannah River Company, the subsidiary of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation that operates the plant, said the project will cost at least \$1.66 billion and not be completed until 1991, the New York Times reported Monday. The Washington Post said Energy Secretary James D. Watkins planned to announce Tuesday a five-year plan to bring all of the nation's nuclear weapons production plants into compliance with environmental and safety laws. Under the proposal the department would spend \$2.4 billion next year and up to \$3.7 billion in each of the following four years. Watkins told the Post that the plan would include management of hazardous waste and restoration of the environment around the plants.

S. Arabia may protect industries from 'dumping'

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia may introduce anti-dumping laws to protect its fledgling industries from cheap foreign imports, the kingdom's deputy commerce minister has warned. The minister, Abdul Rahman Al Zamil, was quoted Sunday as telling the Jeddah-based English language Arab News that dumping posed a serious threat to Saudi Arabia.

"Like other developing nations, we are threatened with dumping... but... the problem is more serious as the Kingdom follows a free economy," the paper quoted him as saying. He said dumping had become a serious concern to Saudi Arabia after its domestic industries began to boost production.

Soviet oil production lags behind target

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet oil production is lagging increasingly behind target this year and was three million tonnes short in the six months to June, according to a recent official statistics. The first half figures, issued by the state statistics Committee Goskomstat and published by the government daily Izvestia, also showed the country's trade deficit worsening owing to a surge in imports.

Many of the details were announced last Friday by the committee's deputy chief, Nikolai Belov. They showed sluggish growth, wage rises far in excess of production increases and a boosted money supply likely to fuel inflation.

The latest figures put first half oil production at 304 million tonnes — 3.3 million tonnes short of planned targets. First quarter production stood at 152 million tonnes, a shortfall of 721,000 tonnes.

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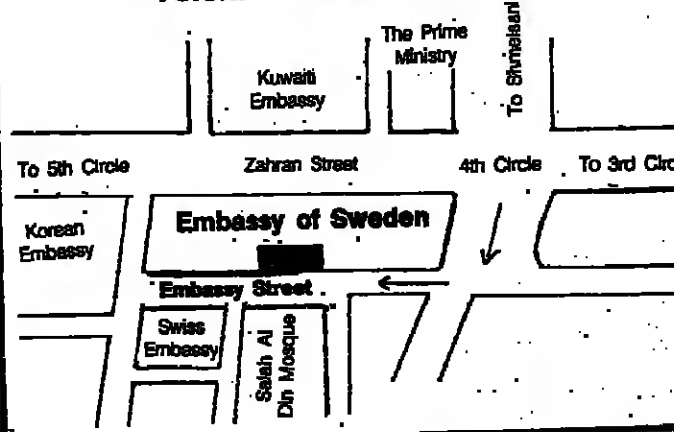
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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Otaiba: Oil market is stabilising

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Oil Minister Mana Said Al Otaiba has said in a television interview that the oil market was stabilising and that OPEC member-states were sticking to their production quotas.

He said prices now hovered around \$15-17 a barrel and he expected them to reach \$18 "or exceed that."

Otaiba's remarks appeared aimed at downplaying declining prices, with total OPEC production estimated at least 1 million barrels a day over the 19.5 million quota fixed by the 13-member cartel for July 1.

He also was preempting charges that the United Arab Emirates, a persistent over-producer under past OPEC agreements, was overshooting its current quota of 1.04 million barrels a day.

Oil prices had been around \$20 a barrel for the past several weeks. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) seeks a stable price of around \$18 a barrel.

"It's the oil market that defines the price now and OPEC has given up fixing the price... but production quotas must be respected," Otaiba said.



Mana Said Al Otaiba

"All indications are that OPEC member states are respecting the production quotas defined for them and this gives assurances that the oil market is moving toward stability and better improvement," he added.

Otaiba noted that seasonal considerations were a factor in price decline, as well as differences in oil grade demands from one season to another and market speculations, he added.

The cartel's follow-up committee, due to meet in September in Paris, would give a "new shot in the arm in adding confidence to the market, improving the prices," he said.

He called on non-OPEC oil producers to help the cartel's efforts to maintain an \$18 price because such stability would improve the world economy.

Experts discuss setting up stock market in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab monetary officials began Sunday five days of discussions in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) about plans to set up a stock market.

An official of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) told Reuters they would hold talks with the ministries of economy and trade and finance and industry, the central bank, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and chambers of commerce.

A team from the fund, based in Abu Dhabi, was in Qatar last week to help set up a stock market, following a lead set by Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman in establishing exchanges.

The other member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC),

Saudi Arabia, opened an exchange in 1987 but it was closed after three weeks because of what bankers termed objections from the religious community.

The UAE has been considering a stock exchange since 1985 but financial sources said disparities between the laws of the seven emirates in the federation delayed the project.

Most of the GCC's overseas investments of more than \$300 billion are in the West. Gulf bankers estimate their losses in the 1987 world stock market crash at between \$25 and \$30 billion.

The AMF official said talks in the UAE were part of what he called a long-term strategy to develop, set up and link Arab stock markets.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, July 31, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	573.4	579.4	French franc	90.4 91.3
Swiss franc	95.7	96.2	Japanese yen (for 100)	414.6 418.7
Deutsche mark	306.1	309.2	Dutch guilder	271.4 274.1
Italian lira (for 100)	355.7	359.2	Swedish crown	89.6 90.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	42.6 43.0
				146.1 147.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	1.6635/45	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.1822/32	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8653/60	Deutsche marks
	2.1085/92	Dutch guilders
	1.6075/85	Swiss francs
	39.05/10	Belgian francs
	6.3225/75	French francs
	134/1345	Italian lire
	137.45/55	Japanese yen
	6.3825/75	Swedish crowns
	6.8550/600	Norwegian crowns
	7.2540/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	368.60/369.10	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters
SYDNEY — Strong domestic support for leading stocks pushed the Australian share market to a higher close. The All Ordinaries closed 7.4 points up at 1,634.2.

TOKYO — Late buying by new trust funds ignited a blaze of buying across a wide front, leading shares higher after a day of mainly light, narrow trading. The Nikkei Index rose 248.24 to 34,953.87.

HONG KONG — Stocks staged a 44.33 point rally powered by relief that the property market seems to be holding up in the wake of a confidence crisis sparked by political turmoil in China. The Hang Seng Index ended at 2,571.08.

SINGAPORE — Prices followed Tokyo and Hong Kong rises and the Straits Times Industrials gained 2.15 points to a post-crash closing high of 1,572.29.

BOMBAY — The exchange was closed to let brokers settle business done in the two weeks ended Friday. Trading resumes Tuesday.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended a moderate session mixed but above the day's opening lows after news of good first-half results at Dresdner Bank and scherer reversed the summer doldrums. The Dax Index rose 0.89 to 1,554.16.

ZURICH — Shares closed little changed in quiet trading, with many investors absent before Tuesday's national holiday. The All-Share Swiss Performance index rose 0.9 to 1,164.5.

PARIS — Stocks encountered profit-taking in morning trading after hitting a record high Friday. The 50-share bourse indicator was 0.42 per cent lower at mid-session.

LONDON — Share prices surrendered morning gains on afternoon profit-taking, with Wall Street mixed after being weaker in early business. At 1449 GMT the FTSE index was down 0.6 at 2,505.4.

NEW YORK — Shares in mid-morning were trading at narrowly mixed levels, with blue chips softer and the broader market slightly firmer. The Dow was down three at 2,642.

China cuts airline fares to halt travel slump

PEKING (Agencies) — China's state airline announced a 20 per cent fare cut on 71 domestic routes from Monday until the end of the year in reverse a sharp drop in passengers since a military crackdown in June.

The New China News Agency (NCNA) quoted a Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) spokesman as saying the reduction would be for all passengers. Fares on foreign routes will not be reduced.

The spokesman said half a million fewer passengers travelled on CAAC in June than a year ago. Foreign passengers dropped 54 per cent.

Troops and tanks suppressed student-led protest in Peking on June 4, killing hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people and scaring off both local and foreign travellers.

Meanwhile foreign companies trying to sell such popular products as cars, motorcycles, refrigerators and televisions to Chi-

na will have to obtain quality certificates, an official newspaper reported Sunday.

There have been complaints in China that foreign countries were dumping low-quality goods here. The new measure also could be used to slow the pace of such consumer imports.

Imports exceeded exports by \$5.7 billion in the first half of this year, the State Statistical Bureau reported.

A new law on import and export commodity inspection, taking effect Tuesday, will also require 481 Chinese products to undergo inspection before they can be exported, in a bid to improve quality control, the China Daily reported.

Zhu Zhenyuan, director general of the Inspection Administration, said low-quality goods have hurt China's reputation in foreign trade.

China Daily said foreign sellers will have to obtain quality certificates six months in advance for

certain items. Under the measure, which takes effect next May 1, other items will have to undergo inspection before being imported.

Zhu said the worst problems with exports occur with agricultural products that are difficult to inspect. Some unscrupulous firms steal shipments or substitute un-inspected goods for high-quality items after they have been inspected for export, he added.

In one case, he said, such items as textbooks, cigarette boxes and

sliding weights were discovered inside a shipment of Chinese sesame seeds to Cyprus.

The English-language China Daily said inspectors will begin more thorough checks of export items of dubious quality and weigh shipments after rather than before they are loaded on ships. The new law also imposes fines for breaking the inspection law.

China will set up six new inspection stations in the United States, West Germany, Australia, Singapore, the Philippines and Bangladesh, the report said.

Carter blames food shortages in Africa on political instability

OTTA, Nigeria (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter says political instability is to blame for Africa's inability to feed itself.

Carter, whose Global 2000 project supports agricultural and health programmes throughout the continent, spoke Sunday at the close of a four-day African leadership forum sponsored by former Nigerian military leader Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo. Otta is about 30 kilometres north west of Lagos.

"I have come to believe that the political instability in Africa must be blamed for the past failures of efforts aimed at raising food production on the continent," Carter said.

Carter cited Sudan as an example of the political instability dooming the efforts of international and local groups to boost

food production. He said his organisation had to deal with six Sudanese agricultural ministers before it could conclude an aid programme.

On June 30, the military overthrew Sudan's civilian government, the second coup and third change of government in four years.

Carter met with the new military leader, Lt-Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir, last week in an effort to bring an end to Sudan's six-year civil war. Carter also was in contact with rebel leader John Garang.

Carter also met with Ethiopia's Marxist government and representatives of guerrillas who have fought for 28 years for autonomy for Eritrea. He said they had agreed to set up negotiating committees.

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Liberick Soviet parliamentarian Boris Yeltsin at an informal meeting with Muscovites. Yeltsin, human rights activist Andrei Sakharov and others were elected Sunday to head what is billed as the first-ever opposition group in the Soviet parliament.

'Soviet empire' should be dismantled — Sakharov

MOSCOW (AP) — Andrei D. Sakharov, in an interview published Sunday, called for the complete dismantling of the Soviet Union's "empire-like" structure built on oppression and its replacement by a voluntary confederation.

The outspoken dean of the Soviet Human Rights Movement reiterated his respect for President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, but said the weekly magazine Ogonyok that the country was on the verge of an economic catastrophe and that he considers a military or right-wing coup a possibility.

Sakharov said the Soviet Union must tear down its centrally controlled system built by Josef Stalin and start all over again.

The 15 Soviet republics and other homelands set aside for the Soviet Union's more than 100 ethnic groups "should get independence to the maximum degree," Sakharov said.

"Their sovereignty should have the minimal limits of common defence, foreign policy, transport and communications," he added.

Since being freed by Gorbachev from internal exile in December 1986, Sakharov has spoken out frequently in the Soviet press on issues that interest him. But his comments are rarely as detailed as the 3½-page interview carried by Ogonyok.

Sakharov, a member of the Congress of People's Deputies who was heckled and cut off during several debates during the initial parliamentary sessions, said the congress failed to address the Soviet Union's severe ethnic difficulties.

Fighting has broken out among ethnic groups in many areas of the Soviet Union in the past 18 months, killing hundreds of people and forcing the evacuation of thousands.

Sakharov has spoken out in defence of Armenians and other ethnic groups that have been targets of some of the violence.

The system of central control over the republics is an outgrowth of the Stalinist "divide and rule" practice, Sakharov said. But the Russian nation also have suffered by dominating its smaller neighbours, he said.

"On its shoulders lay the major part of the burden of our historical road, ambitions of the empire, dogmatism, adventurist foreign and domestic policies — the people had to pay for all of that," he said.

"Our starting point is a forced, empire-like structure and we cannot dismantle it partially. It has to be done completely and reassemble the pieces into a whole new structure," he told the popular weekly.

He applauded the drives by the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia for greater economic and political independence from Moscow.

The nuclear physicist, who won the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize for his human rights activities, acknowledged there may be attempts to break away from the Soviet Union entirely. Some activists in the Baltic republics and in Georgia and Armenia have called for outright independence from the Soviet Union.

The new ties will be weak at first, he said, but would grow stronger over time.

Sakharov also warned that the Soviet Union's economic and ethnic problems were damaging the leadership's credibility.

"It is very dangerous, unstable situation, where any danger, any unpredictable or predictable but tragic, horrible thing is possible," he said.

"I think a military coup is possible in such a situation," he said. "A right-wing coup is also possible."

Sakharov in the past has warned that Gorbachev, as president and Communist Party leader, has accumulated too much power, and added in the interview that the Soviet leader may find himself under unbearable pressure from conservatives to halt his reforms.

"I have the greatest respect for Mikhail Gorbachev, but this is a political rather than a personal question. No-one is here forever, and I am talking about the office of the leader and a situation that may emerge."

Indian troops kill 33 Tamil rebels; Sinhalese hit army

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Indian troops killed 33 Tamil guerrillas who attacked an Indian military camp in northwest Sri Lanka, officials said Monday.

Indian high commission (embassy) officials said three soldiers were killed and four civilians died in crossfire during the seven-hour gunbattle Sunday at Adampan in Mannar district.

The battle with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels took place a day after the token withdrawal of 600 of the 45,000 Indian soldiers on the island.

A spokesman for the Tigers rejected the large casualty figure.

"Only one of our men was killed but an unknown number of civilians reportedly died in shelling from the Indian camp," he said.

Officials said about 150 guerrillas attacked the camp from the compound of a nearby abandoned church Sunday night.

"The fighting went on for several hours but we repulsed the attack," one official said. Three soldiers were killed and three were injured.

Indian troops are trying to disarm the Tigers who rejected an Indo-Sri Lanka pact to end a Tamil separatist rebellion.

In New Delhi, Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne was due to meet Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Monday for talks on the pact.

Wijeratne, who arrived in the Indian capital Saturday, has had talks with officials there on a timetable for the withdrawal of the remainder of the Indian troops and the devolution of power to minority Tamils in the north and east.

Colombo and New Delhi, after a month of bitter wrangling over when the Indian troops should go, agreed Friday to a token withdrawal in return for talks on the future of the Tamils.

In Colombo, people returned to work or went shopping Monday after a weekend curfew and anti-Indian protests in which nearly 170 people were killed.

Many of the deaths occurred in the central province when security forces fired at crowds who defied the curfew and shouted "Indian troops should go."

The curfew was reimposed Monday evening as a precaution, according to military sources.

The protests were led by the leftist People's Liberation Front (JVP), whose campaign of killings and strikes has paralysed government rule in some southern and central areas.

Suspected JVP militants ambushed an army patrol jeep in central Sri Lanka, killing at least five people and injuring two, military officials said.

The jeep was attacked in the district of Matla, about 100 kilometres northeast of Colombo, said the officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules. At least one soldier, two guards and two civilians were killed, they said.

At least seven people were killed in other parts of the Sinhalese-dominated south and central regions of the island. The victims included six civilians and one suspected militant shot and killed by the police, they said.

Four people were killed Sunday in fighting between rival Tamil militias. The military officials identified the victims as members of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation and said they were being discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

Sinhalese radicals launched their campaign against the Sinhalese-dominated government in 1987, saying peace overtures then made to the Tamils gave the minority community too many concessions.

Tamils form 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 18 million people and Sinhalese make up 75 per cent.



A few dozen members of India's opposition Janata Party burn an effigy of Sri Lanka President Ranasinghe Premadasa in New Delhi as Indian peace-keeping troops began withdrawing from Sri Lanka.

They were attacked by the LTTE, the largest and most powerful militia.

The six-year-old war for an independent Tamil nation and the Sinhalese uprising against the government have claimed at least 15,000 lives.

Tamils began fighting for a separate nation in 1983, claiming they were being discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

Sinhalese radicals launched their campaign against the Sinhalese-dominated government in 1987, saying peace overtures then made to the Tamils gave the minority community too many concessions.

Tamils form 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 18 million people and Sinhalese make up 75 per cent.

Police hunt vanished millions, baid guard

MADRID (R) — Spanish police scoured Madrid for a bald security guard with a squint whom they suspect of driving away with a cool \$2.7 million in cash. The 40-year-old guard, a driver with a security firm, waited at the wheel of his armoured van Friday afternoon while two colleagues went into a city-centre cake shop to collect a consignment of money, police said. When the two came out, the van, carrying at least 320 million pesetas (\$2.7 million), had vanished. Police later found the van abandoned in an underground car park. In it were the driver's pistol, a shotgun belonging to the security firm and a few sacks containing 20 million pesetas (\$170,000). Police described the guard as a tall man who was almost totally bald but normally wore a wig. He also wore dark glasses to hide a squint in his left eye.

Lowe to do community service

ATLANTA (AP) — American actor Roh Lowe will do two years' community service to avoid prosecution on charges that he videotaped a young girl performing a sex act at a hotel during a national political convention, a prosecutor said. Lowe had faced a possible criminal charge of sexual exploitation of a minor, a charge that carries a maximum 20 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine, district attorney Lewis R. Slaton said. Lowe, 25, and his father met with Slaton Friday, almost a year after he allegedly taped the sex scene between Jan Parsons, who was 16 at the time, and a female companion at a downtown hotel room during the 1988 Democratic national convention. Lowe remains the subject of a civil lawsuit brought by Miss Parsons' mother, Lena Arlene Wilson, who claims Lowe seduced her daughter. Lowe is star of such films as "About Last Night..." "St. Elmo's Fire" and "Oxford Blues."

Highway shootout in kidnap payoff

ROME (AP) — Two suspected kidnappers tricked into thinking they were on the trail of a five-billion-lire (\$3.7 million) ransom were killed Saturday in a highway shootout with police disguised as relatives of a kidnapped businessman, reports said. The shootout, which left two other suspected kidnappers and four policemen wounded, occurred a day before a deadline set by kidnappers of Dante Belardinelli, 65, whose business distributes coffee and other food products. He was abducted May 30 as he drove to his home in the hills outside Florence. The kidnappers reportedly demanded five billion lire. Italian television and news agency reports said authorities decided it was too dangerous for Belardinelli's daughter to pay the money in the manner demanded by the kidnappers. The kidnappers had asked that the daughter drive a car with chair on the luggage rack up and down the highway in central Italy until the kidnappers' car caught up with hers and signalled, news reports said. Police picked for their resemblance to the daughter and two other relatives made the rendezvous instead, authorities said. A car with four occupants including a woman approached, and when they realised they had been tricked, they opened fire with a pistol and saved-off shotguns, the ANSA news agency reported. Two of the suspects were killed and the other two were wounded. One of the wounded police officers was in a coma, ANSA said. A second car sped away, the reports said.

Shevardnadze, Qian agree to border talks

NEW YORK (AP) — The Soviet Union and China have agreed to hold talks in November on reducing troops along the Sino-Soviet border, according to the official Soviet news agency TASS.

In a dispatch from Paris monitored in New York, TASS reported that the agreement was made in a meeting of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen.

The two ministers were in Paris on the day before the opening of an international conference on ending the Cambodian conflict.

"The ministers reached agreement on holding the first meeting of diplomatic and military experts in Moscow next November to consider cuts in the armed forces in areas adjacent to the Sino-Soviet border and confidence-building measures in the military sphere," TASS reported.

It did not elaborate.

The discussions would be the first formal talks between the two sides devoted to reducing troops. They follow a joint communique issued at the end of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's May summit in Peking, in which the two countries said they would cut their border troops "to a minimum level commensurate with the normal, good neighbourly relations between the two countries." The communique did not specify any targets.

At the summit, the two sides normalised diplomatic relations, ending a 30-year rift based in part upon border disputes. The countries have been conducting separate talks over their rival border claims.

At present, the Soviet Union has an estimated 600,000 troops along the border, while China has about one million.

The Soviets announced unilaterally last year that they were pulling back "a major portion" of the 50,000 troops they station in Mongolia, the pro-Soviet state on China's border.

Chileans approve constitution reforms

SANTIAGO (AP) — Voters have overwhelmingly approved a package of democratic reforms to Chile's constitution, including legalising Marxism and reducing presidential powers.

Military President Augusto Pinochet said Sunday's vote "has shown the Chilean people's capacity to reach national unity" and said the armed forces had "vowed in a solemn manner" to ensure that the constitution would be respected.

Calling approval of the changes "historic," Pinochet said on national radio and television that the amended constitution "is the most efficient way to consolidate an authentically democratic system."

Final returns announced late Sunday night by the government showed: 5,735,032 votes, or 85.7 per cent, approved the referendum, and 550,888 votes, or 8.2 per cent, rejected it. There were 408,868 voided or blank ballots.

Passage of the amendments was widely expected, as they were endorsed by both the military government, which drafted the changes, and the opposition.

After the bulletin indicating that most voters had approved the changes, both sides praised the decision of the electorate.

Andres Zaldivar, president of the centrist Christian Democratic Party, the largest in the opposition, said the reforms "allow us to begin the construction of a real democracy." He renewed the opposition's call for further reforms.

Zaldivar said the agreement to amend the constitution should pave the way for two more agreements: "A social-economic agreement to face the people's problems, and an accord among civilians and military to bring all Chileans to the common task of building democracy."

Among the changes are the easing of restrictions on Marxist activity, which has been banned under the present constitutional text. The new text is tantamount to legalising Marxism, experts say.

Philippine rebels killed in shootout

MANILA (AP) — Three suspected Communist rebels were killed Monday in a shootout with police, and guerrillas warned the arrest of two prominent insurgents has hurt plans for new talks to end the 20-year rebellion.

The shootout erupted when suspected New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas opened fire on Captain Gaudencio Cordora, an intelligence officer, as he drove to work in suburban Pasay City, according to investigator Armando Aprid.

Cordora was wounded in the arm, but his two bodyguards, who were in a trailing car, returned the fire killing three attackers and wounding a fourth. He was arrested, Aprid said.

Urban guerrillas have killed more than 60 policemen and soldiers in the capital this year, according to police count. The rebels have been waging a 20-year rebellion to establish a Marxist state.

On Sunday, rebels said two prominent members who were arrested last week had been in the capital to promote new negotiations with the government but their arrest "destroys any opportunity for peace."

Satur Ocampo, suspected chairman of the National Democratic Front (NDF), and his common-law wife, Carolina "Bobbie" Malay, were captured Thursday while driving in suburban Makati.

The military has asked a civilian prosecutor to file illegal weapons charges against the two. The military ordinarily files such charges against rebel suspects because no bail is allowed for illegal weapons possession under Philippine law. Bail is allowed for defendants accused of rebellion.

In a statement to news organisations, the front said: "The arrest of Satur and Bobbie comes at a time when the NDF is offering a serious and bold proposal to the (President Corason) Aquino regime and to the nation."

The front referred to an offer to resume peace talks to end the insurgency if Aquino agrees to close the six U.S. military bases here in 1991.

"Despite great risks to their security, these two comrades left the revolutionary bases in the countryside and went to the capital to work on the NDF proposal," the statement said.



Captured Philippine communist leader Satur Ocampo with wife Carolina Malay screams at his captors at Manila constabulary base when presented by the military to the media.

The rebels said the government had disregarded the peace offer and "its eagerness to show off a prize catch to please its imperialist master (the United States) overrides any concern for peace and destroys any opportunity for peace."

The statement was signed by renegade rebel Antonio Zume, who, along with Ocampo and Malay, negotiated on behalf of the insurgents during peace talks that broke down in January 1987.

Ignoring the jeers, Utah pursues fusion research

By Michael White
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Cold fusion researcher Stanley Pons has given up trying to convince critics that he and colleague Martin Fleischmann may have unlocked the power of the sun in a laboratory beaker.

But if many physicists have ridiculed the notion of tabletop, room-temperature fusion, it has become a boom industry in Utah, where the two chemists enjoy strong support.

Pons' University of Utah has leased a research centre and a Utah congressman is preparing a bill to create a national centre here. A private group of boosters has been created to help Pons' and Fleischmann win over non-believers.

Pons said months of stinging criticism have taken their toll, leaving him frustrated and weary of meetings with sceptical and sometimes hostile colleagues.

"It's a bit depressing, to say the least," he said last week. "They're saying it can't be done, but they can't explain our results."

Pons may have given up on the critics, but neither he nor the university is about to give up on cold fusion.

Boostered by \$4.5 million in state funds, the university has signed a lease for an off-campus fusion research centre, and Pons and Fleischmann are writing a new paper expanding the theory behind their experiments.

"When you know you're right it's a lot easier to move ahead. We know the science is there," said James Brophy, the university's vice president for research. "With this beginning of seed money and with corporate support, we'll define what the possibilities are."

Brophy said negotiations are under way with General Electric, which has agreed to collaborate with the two scientists.

He would not provide further details.

Governor Norm Bangert, the state legislature and the congressional delegation are firmly behind Pons and Fleischmann, of Britain's University of Southampton. A bill by Congressman Wayne Owens would create a national fusion research centre at the university, which is in his district. The bill's chances were hurt by a July 12 report by the U.S. Energy Department's energy research advisory board, which concluded there was no convincing evidence that cold fusion works.

Pons and Fleischmann started scientists with their March 23 announcement that they had sustained a fusion reaction by running an electrical current between electrodes of palladium and platinum immersed in heavy water, so called because instead of normal hydrogen it contains the heavier isotope deuterium.

Pons said the process had produced more than 50 times the amount of energy that went into it. If true, it could lead to technology that would provide the world with an unlimited, relatively clean supply of energy.

Fusion involves the combining of atoms and should be safer than fission, atom-splitting, which has been used to produce nuclear power.

Initial excitement among scientists turned to ire as major laboratories were unable to duplicate the process. The two scientists were openly ridiculed during the annual meeting of the American Physical Society in Baltimore in April.

Pons said the laboratories that could not achieve fusion hadn't done their experiments right, adding that he was frustrated by scientists who dismissed his findings without providing details of their own methodology.

"They just say it didn't work and walk away. They don't publish anything," said Pons, who himself was criticised for announcing his findings rather than publishing details of the research.

"It is tremendously frustrating. It puts you on your knees because you don't have any idea what they're doing. They don't give you the opportunity. You made a mistake if you say you saw heat. If you see tritium, you're insane."

Radioactive tritium, another isotope of hydrogen, can only be produced in a fusion reaction. Pons claimed tritium was created during his experiment. About a dozen labs around the world also have reported finding tritium in their fusion experiments. Among them was the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which did not confirm that the experiment produced fusion.

Global weather (major world cities)			
	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	13	16	18 Rain
ATHENS	20	28	30 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	30	35	37 Clear
BANGKOK	27	31	33 Clear
Buenos Aires	20	24	26 Clear
Cairo	21	30	34 Clear
CHICAGO	20	24	26 Clear
COPENHAGEN	15	20	22 Rain
FRANKFURT	13	16	18 Cloudy
GENEVA	17	21	23 Rain
HONG KONG	24	28	30 Clear
ISTANBUL	20	28	30 Clear
LOS ANGELES	18	24	26 Clear
MADRID	23	28	30 Clear
MEXICO	27	31	33 Clear
MONTREAL	10	14	16 Cloudy
MOSCOW	14	18	20 Clear
NEW DELHI	24	28	30 Clear
NEW YORK	18	24	26 Clear
PARIS	14	18	20 Clear
ROME	19	24	26 Clear
SYDNEY	11	15	17 Clear
TOKYO	24	28	30 Clear
VIENNA	17	21	23 Rain

